

Table of international exchange rates for various currencies including Hong Kong, New Zealand, and others.

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Joy Greenlade on an unsung hero

The re-emergence of Ben Elton

A German view of British tabloids

My remarkable friend the surgeon



Not just a smug grin in a shiny suit

Hun batters

G2 with European weather

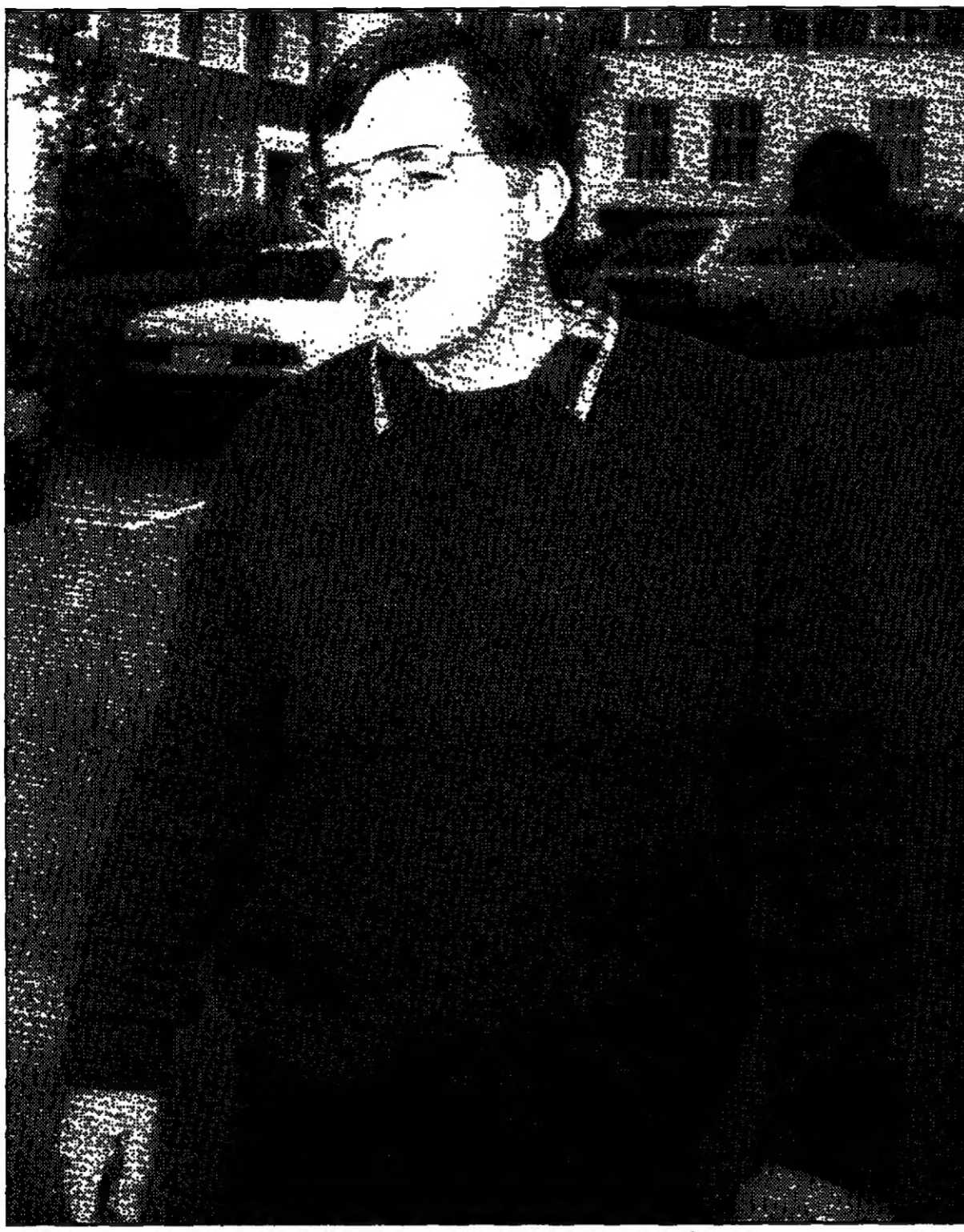
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Sleaze issue returns to haunt Major as Welsh minister quits over affair Paying the price of hypocrisy

Sex and the Tory elite: how they fell from grace

- List of names and brief descriptions of scandals involving Tory politicians: 1. DAVID MELLOR, 2. TIM YEO, 3. LORD CAITHNESS, 4. DAVID ASHEBY, 5. HARTLEY BOOTH, 6. STEPHEN MILLIGAN, 7. MICHAEL BROWN, 8. ROBERT HUGHES, 9. RICHARD SPRING.



Rod Richards outside his home in Richmond, south-west London, last night after his resignation

Patrick Wintour, Chief Political Correspondent

THE politically damaging image of sleaze and personal hypocrisy returned to haunt John Major's government last night when Rod Richards, the junior Welsh Office minister, resigned over allegations of an extra-marital affair...



...AND ON SUNDAYS TOO!

The World's possession of photographs of Mr Richards entering Ms Fethouse's London flat... I am sad because Rod Richards was doing a superb job and his departure from the Welsh Office will leave a vacuum which must be filled quickly...

Charges and loans proposed in shake-up of legal aid system

Clare Dyer Legal Correspondent

STATE-FINANCED loans to fund litigation for the middle classes and the abolition of free legal aid for benefit claimants are among far-reaching changes under consideration in the biggest shake-up of the legal aid system in its 46-year history.

help would take the form of a loan, and those who lost their cases would have to pay the winner's legal costs. Unless a general election intervenes, the Government hopes to introduce a bill this autumn or early next year, making radical changes to the structure and delivery of legal aid.

listing pilot scheme under which advice agencies, as well as solicitors, have been funded to provide legal help to be extended to a much larger number of agencies. But plans by Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, to extend legal aid to industrial, social security and other tribunals have been shelved after objections by employment and social security ministers, who feared it would provoke an avalanche of claims.

cost of litigation much more predictable, opening the way for insurers to offer cover against the cost of losing a case. This has so far been limited to accident cases brought on a "no win, no fee" basis, but representatives of the insurance industry have been meeting officials in the Lord Chancellor's Department to discuss making such cover widely available.

Netanyahu pledges to lead all Israelis in search for peace

David Brown in Jerusalem

ISRAEL'S prime minister-elect, Benjamin Netanyahu, vowed last night to be the leader of Jews and non-Jews alike, and to continue to seek peace with the Palestinians and his country's other Arab neighbours.

the middle of this month and had been agreed with the Palestinians. Mr Netanyahu's triumphalist victory speech, to a delirious audience of rightwing supporters in Jerusalem's Convention Centre, contained little hint of his own and his Likud party's bitter opposition to the outgoing government's land-for-peace deal with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Inside

Britain The shadow home secretary, Jack Straw, has started a row by suggesting that night curfews be imposed on children under 10.

World News Vaclav Klaus has been reaffirmed as prime minister of the Czech Republic in the first vote since the break-up of Czechoslovakia.

Finance Investment is in danger of becoming a fetish for the left but this approach leads to lazy analysis.

Sport Michael Schumacher won a rain-lashed Spanish Grand Prix. Championship leader Damon Hill failed to finish after spinning off.

Comment and Letters 6 Obituaries 10 Crossword 15; Weather 16; Radio 15; TV 16

Advertisement for Actionaid: 'Do you really need 50p more than he does?' Includes a photo of a child and text about sponsoring a child.

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom of the page.

Blessed is yet another ailing industry

On Rogation Sunday a blessing of the sea evokes more of loss than of hope. Sailing from a town mired in the past, the fishermen of Hastings look back to better times

Monday sketch



Matthew Engel

AS THE last verse of For Those In Peril On The Sea faded away, the engines of the Hastings lifeboat suddenly started. Steam poured from various orifices, the chains tying the boat to the trailer were removed, and the RNLI's Sealink Endeavour dropped into the sea with a gentle plosh and headed for the harbour bar.

For once the lifeboat was not being launched amid haste or worry or storm. The main purpose was to drop a floral cross into the waters as the final act in Hastings's annual blessing of the sea service. The subsidiary purpose was that the lifeboatmen wanted to give the Bishop of Lewes, who is about to move dioceses, a bit of a going-away jolly. It felt almost like summer yesterday; the sea was as calm

as a Sussex pond; it was a perfect day for a little trip.

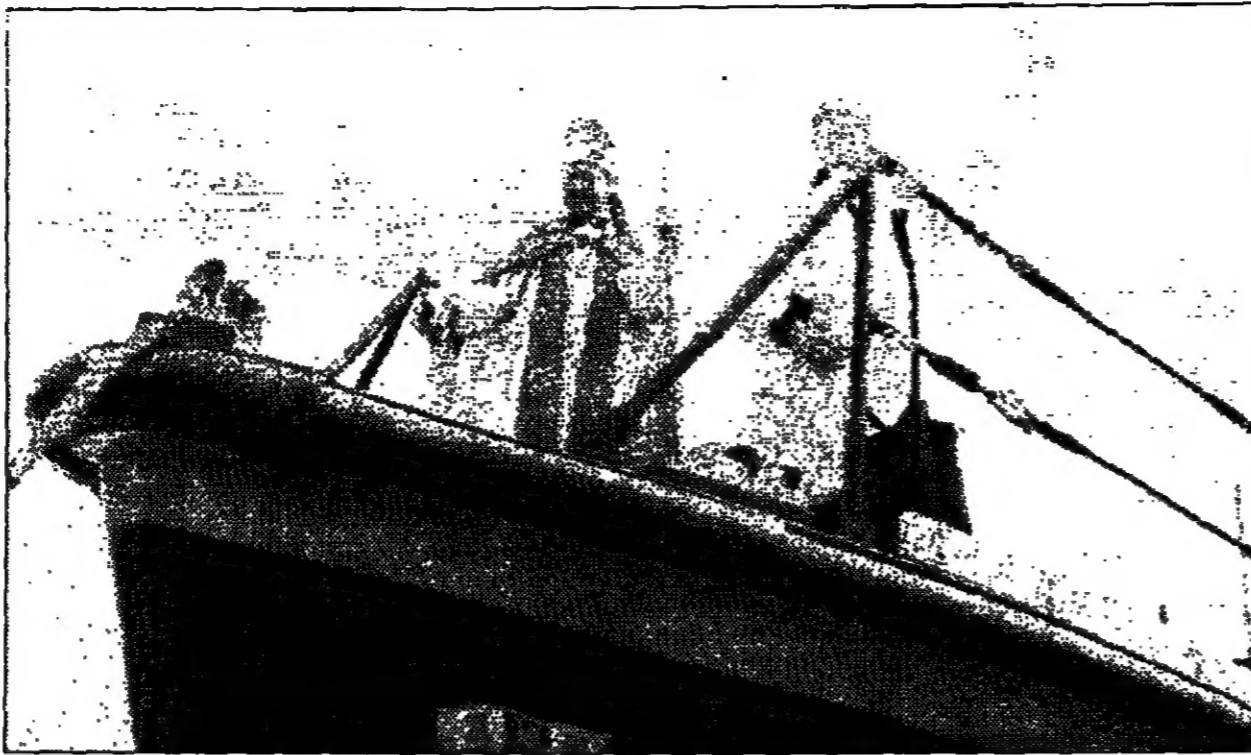
There was, however, a dark clouded subtlety. This was a ceremony linking three of Britain's much-loved but beautiful institutions: the Church, the fishing industry and the traditional seaside resort. Of the three it is the fishing industry that is in the most immediate trouble. One presumes the transmigration of souls goes on the way it always has done; the migration of the Dover sole has been severely mucked up by gravel extraction in the English Channel.

It was Rogation Sunday; the tradition of asking for God's blessing at the start of the season is said to be much older than the more popular one of Harvest Thanksgiving afterwards.

However, praying for a bountiful harvest in this context is a little controversial when the expression "plenty of fish in the sea" is out of date. There are only 60 fishermen left in Hastings and most of them are struggling. "We used to use 30 nets to catch half a ton of fish. Now we need 60 nets to catch a quarter of a ton," said one.

"I know fishermen and farmers are always complaining," said Peter Adams, the auctioneer at Hastings fish market, "but it really is a crisis. I would say 95 per cent of the Hastings fishermen are making less money than they were 10 years ago. I don't mean allowing for inflation. I mean less money."

Everyone here blames the foreigners — we keep the rules, they don't. But that isn't considered a suitable theme for a sermon these days, so the bishop, the Rt Rev Ian Cundy,



For those in peril on the sea... the Bishop of Lewes, the Rt Rev Ian Cundy, at the service

PHOTOGRAPH: ROGER BAMBER

talked about the delicate balance between fish stocks on the one hand and men's livelihood on the other. He said Jesus's good news was that political decisions could be made

together and common ground could be found for the common good. I'm not sure he convinced the fishermen.

There were not many of them present anyway. A fair

number had just come back on the morning tide but the main catch right now is curdled fish, readily eaten in southern Europe but mainly used here for bungs to sharpen their beaks. It is inclined to squirt black ink at its predators so the men come back a bit too filthy to contemplate a bishop.

So there were just about a hundred of us on the shingle while the Salvation Army band played, the bishop stood on the lifeboat deck and we ran through all the available hymns with nautical images: We have an anchor that keeps the soul steady and sure while the billows roll and so on. In between came Psalm 107 about going down to the sea in ships and St Matthew on Jesus calming the storm.

The atmosphere was poignant, elegiac, even though it was a ceremony of springtime hope and, invisible, behind the boathouse, the trippers walked the streets in the sunshine, and the town did its best business of the year.

But then Hastings always seems a poignant sort of place. It was a fraction too far from London ever to get rich. It never got big numbers like Brighton, or the carriage trade like Eastbourne. The visitors stayed in guest houses rather than hotels, and now

the Department of Social Security is the best customer.

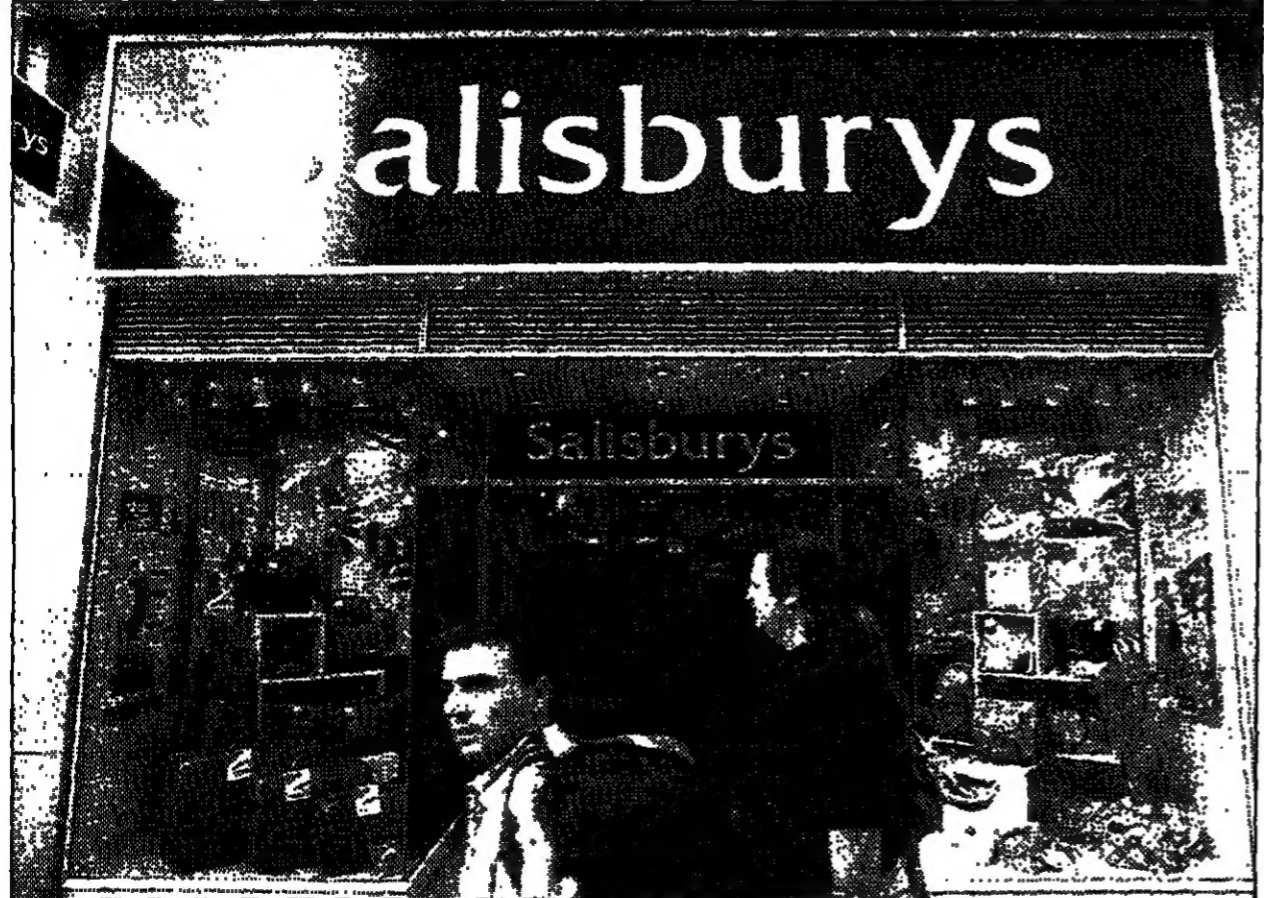
It is a town that seems mired in the past, not always in the right way. There was a plan to turn the harbour into a marina, but nothing happened. All that has happened is that the once-lovely town centre cricket field is being turned into a shopping precinct, which was a very 1960s sort of decision.

"People imagine this must be a prosperous place but unemployment is as high in Hastings as in the old mining towns of County Durham," the bishop explained.

"Life has never been easy here," said the town's vicar, the Rev. Charles Richardson. "But there's an indomitable spirit."

There may not be many fishermen left, but through the market, the fishmongers and the seafood chippies, the health of the industry is vital to Hastings.

And so, as the bishop might have said: With due regard to European Union regulations, government policy; the need to avoid war with Spain before the European championships are out of the way and the fact that it would be nice if our grandchildren could also have cod and chips for tea... Bless all who go down to the sea in ships from this place. Hear our prayer.



Well-known Facia names such as Salisbury's and Red or Dead will continue to trade after the appointment of receivers at the weekend



PHOTOGRAPH: GRAHAM TURNER

Facia collapse threatens 8,500 high street jobs

Paul Murphy

THE jobs of 8,500 staff at more than 1,000 high street shops remained under threat last night as court-appointed receivers moved in to run more than half of the collapsed Facia group, Britain's second largest privately-owned retailer.

Accountants from two firms, KPMG and Grant Thornton, called in to five subsidiaries by Facia's main bankers, the United Mizrahi Bank of Israel, on Saturday, said they had already received about half-a-dozen approaches from potential buyers for parts of the group.

Facia's businesses — which include names such as the luggage specialist Salisbury's and the Comessa women's clothing chain — will continue to trade. The group has debts of around £30 million.

"All the shops were open on Saturday and will be open again on Monday," a spokesman for the receivers said. He said it was too early to say how quickly parts of the business might be sold off or whether stores would close.

Sock Shop, one of the flagship high street names which entrepreneur Stephen Hinchliffe used as a base for building a retail empire in less than two years, is not yet included in the receivership

because it has different bankers, the Bank of Scotland.

KPMG said it would be holding urgent meetings with Bank of Scotland today.

Meanwhile, uncertainty hangs over Facia's shoe shop interests, which were bought from Sears, the retailing firm, in two branches over the past 10 months. Sears, which either owns the freehold or is liable for the rent of more than 380 Freeman Hardy Willis, Trueform, Manfield, Saxone and Curless stores, will have its application to put these subsidiaries into administration heard today. As opposed to receivership, administration allows a company to continue trading over

a longer period with protection from its creditors.

The position of 110 Bata shoe shops in Germany, bought by Facia less than three months ago, remained unclear, as did the future of two retailing companies acquired by Mr Hinchliffe separately from Facia — the men's accessories group Colibri Lighters and the cosmetics specialist French & Scott.

Mr Hinchliffe and fellow Facia executive directors Gary O'Brien and Christopher Harrison said last night that they were surprised and disappointed at the action taken, which was "not in the best interests of the creditors or Facia employees".

Retail outlets in group

Subsidiary	Goods	Outlets	When acquired	Status
Salisbury's handbags	Luggage	250	Aug 94	In receivership
Sock Shop	Hosiery etc	100	Oct 94	Unaffected
Torq	Jewellery	69	Jan 95	In receivership
Red or Dead	Fashion	n/a	Jan 95	In receivership
Oakland	Men's fashion	40	Mar 95	In receivership
Comessa	Ladieswear	130	April 95	In receivership
Mayfair Trunks	Luggage	n/a	April 95	Unclear
Freeman Hardy Willis	Shoes	-	-	-
Trueform	Shoes	-	-	-
Manfield	Shoes	250	Aug 95	Administration expected
Saxone	Shoes	-	-	-
Curless	Shoes	134	Feb 96	Administration expected
Bata, Germany	Shoes	110	Mar 96	Unclear

Wild arctic trail of misery to carefree promised land

Review

Adam Sweeting

The Cure
Ears Court

THE 1996 Cure features new recruit Jason Cooper on drums as well as the return of Roger O'Donnell on keyboards, alongside the more established Simon Gallup and Perry Bamonte. But The Cure is always Robert Smith, regardless of his hired hands, and despite the group's

lengthy sabbatical Smith has returned miraculously unchanged.

Soccer-crazed Smith wandered on to the Earls Court stage in an orange Russian football shirt. His floppy, baggy-fitting ensemble was topped with a resplendent twigs-and-straw hat, as if he were volunteering to model the kind of mascot you might find dangling from the rear-view mirror of a dilapidated Ford Escort.

However, Smith's diligently dishevelled look masks a shrewd brain and a determination that can be formidable once he has managed to drag

himself out of his much-loved bed. He has guided The Cure from its spindly post-punk origins through the dank swamp of Goth to reach a kind of baby-Pink Floyd status, where the group can mix up sugar-coated pop with vast swathes of synthesised gloom and fill echoey sheds like this one.

They'd made some effort to counteract the hall's dusty acoustics with a vivid audiovisual show, featuring a fabric backdrop which fluttered in an artificial breeze, rows of lights resembling a big dipper, and some crafty back projections.

If you measure value for

money by time elapsed, this show was an excellent deal because it lasted 2½ hours. If you measure it by how fully your attention was gripped, it doesn't score quite so high, since it was a classic Cure performance — huge expanses of slow, mournful stuff, intermittently lit up by blasts of sharp poppiness.

This tour is built around the group's new album, Wild Mood Swings, which is a reasonably accurate survey of their familiar characteristics — noisy ones, plenty of slow ones, and a bit of off-the-wall surrealism in The 13th. One of the most distinctive ones they

played was Mint Car, a bright and bouncy item in which Smith makes a gallant effort to sound blissfully happy and carefree, with lines such as "I never knew it got this good". Round & Round & Round, by contrast, represented the dull, monotonous flipside.

While Smith's willingness to embrace drab prairies of angst has endeared him to millions of fans, I've always much preferred the up-tempo, short-song Cure, and once again I was reminded why. Just Like Heaven is The Cure at their tight, speedy best, while Pictures Of You is a deft mix of tunefulness and plain-

teness. The wacky, cuddly Close To Me comes pretty close to superpop-heaven, while the venerable Play For Today still delivers a terrific emotional charge. They'd even dug up Killing An Arab and 10.15 Saturday Night.

Unfortunately they saved most of these until the very end, so you had to sit through arctic wastes of misery and self-doubt to reach them. Smith's petulant sob of a voice is ideally suited to lyrics such as "if you've got nothing left to say, say goodbye". We might amend that to "if you've got anything to say, get on with it".

US changes tack to insist on Bosnia poll

Owen Bennett Jones in Geneva and Julian Berger in Pale

BOSNIAN elections must go ahead in September whether or not the Bosnian Serb leader, Radovan Karadzic, is removed from office, the United States secretary of state, Warren Christopher, told Balkan leaders in Geneva yesterday.

The policy shift came as US officials at the summit appeared to brush aside the opinion of both the Bosnian government and various international organisations overseeing the peace settlement that Mr Karadzic has to be toppled if there is to be a chance of fair elections.

Despite hopes that President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia would produce evidence that Mr Karadzic had withdrawn from public life, no such assurances were forthcoming in the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale yesterday, Mr Karadzic's supporters dismissed suggestions that he would step down.

"If you think he will just do the pragmatic thing, you're crazy. Remember he is a poet. He is quite prepared, if necessary, to become a martyr," said one source close to the Bosnian Serb leadership.

The state department spokesman, Nicholas Burns, said that while Washington still wanted Mr Karadzic to face the war crimes tribunal in The Hague, "it would be foolish to put him in a position to determine the success or failure of the elections".

Mr Christopher demanded "tangible action" from Mr Milosevic to bring the Bosnian Serb leader to justice. But after meeting the Bosnian president, Alija Izetbegovic, and the Croatian leader, President Franjo Tudjman, he told journalists: "I would say that the elections will go forward on schedule."

Mr Christopher's declaration pre-empted the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which has the designated task of assessing whether conditions exist for fair elections.

The OSCE's human rights arm has serious reservations about the situation across the country, particularly on Serb-controlled territory, where ethnic cleansing is once more on the rise.

"There are some extremely negative elements for the elections... We have to make progress if we are to give the green light," said Flavio Cotli, the Swiss OSCE chairman, yesterday.

The OSCE officially has until July 14 to make a decision on whether elections should be postponed. But the

state department is applying considerable pressure on the organisation, and on its representative in Bosnia, Robert Frowick, an American, to come up with a positive decision in time for an international ministerial conference on Bosnia in Florence on June 13.

Most observers believe the OSCE, heavily reliant on US funds for its operation in Bosnia, will bow to the pressure.

"I think Frowick has pretty regular contacts with the state department and the state department view is that Bosnian elections should not be a political issue at home," said a European diplomat in Sarajevo.

A postponement of the Bosnian poll could enmesh it with US presidential elections in November. President Clinton has promised that American troops will be out of the country by the end of the year, a target which would be jeopardised by a delay.

The Bosnian government said it was also under US pressure to agree to the September elections, although it was sceptical a free poll could take place on Serb-held territory.

The Bosnian ambassador to

"If you think that Karadzic will just do the pragmatic thing, you're crazy. He is a poet"

the United Nations, Mohamed Saad, said yesterday: "We feel like we are in a car, behind the steering wheel, while the West is stepping on the gas."

Reuters adds from Sarajevo: Bosnian Serbs yesterday reached the central town of Teslic, and stoned a further group of Muslims going to nearby villages, said Kris Janowski of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Rocks and broken glass injured a number of people, he said.

"These incidents are yet another demonstration of the wall of hostility we are encountering in our efforts to repatriate refugees and bring the two communities together," he said.

Pricey ticket to join Nato, page 6

Butch

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Labour

London agree

Q 150



Toxic crusader Ritchie Palmer and friends. Curfew for him, say his parents, is 8pm. Other children on the estate stay out far later. PHOTOGRAPH: STEVE FORREST

Straw's law

LAW and order measures proposed by the shadow home secretary, Jack Straw, include:

- "Community safety order" to deal with noisy neighbours and others who indulge in persistent and criminal anti-social behaviour.
- Single official warning for young offenders before court action is taken, to replace the system of repeat cautioning.
- Action to curb public drinking, aggressive begging and intimidating activities of "squeegee merchants", linked with plans to expand hostels and "wet" treatment centres for alcoholics.
- Measures to strengthen families, including high quality child-care and parenting classes.
- Reform of the Crown Prosecution Service and measures to reduce trial delays.
- Offences of racially motivated violence, a ban on the ownership of automatic handguns and tougher penalties for weapons offences.

New issue OUT NOW!



"Manchester is a Disneyland for drugs."



In this month's Q, Shaun Ryder, leader of Black Grape, "former" chemical connoisseur, comes clean (or thereabouts) about 15 years of forbidden fruit: "I had a perfectly healthy heroin habit before Happy Mondays even started."

FREE CD! Mmmmm, a CD that's a 73-minute saliva-serenading soufflé of sound, featuring Supergrass, Radiohead, Dubstar, Terrorvision, Crowded House, Sinead O'Connor and billions besides.

PLUS! In the midst of Aussie hysteria with Alanis Morissette, on the trail of the laminated "privilege card" with a panoply of Fan Club Memorabilia, and up against a deadline as Bryan Adams writes a song with Q. And we ask: Who the hell does Irvine Welsh think he is?

AND! In the world's only herbal reviews section, The Byrds, Metallica, The Blue Nile, Ash and Smashing Pumpkins.



Q! Out now!

GREAT WHEN YOU'RE STRAIGHT.

Labour 'under-10s curfew' plan ignites row

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

JACK STRAW, the shadow home secretary, was at the centre of controversy inside and outside the Labour Party last night after suggesting the introduction of night-time curfew powers on children under 10.

He said he did not want to go as far as some American cities, where police have the power to impose an 8pm curfew on the under-17s to curb youth crime.

"There is very great concern about the number of younger children who are out on the streets late at night," he said. "This is not chasing every kid off the street. We are talking about the under-10s possibly being off the streets by 8pm."

"I see them when I'm driving back from the Commons and wonder where their parents are. Curfews seem to be a sensible way to deal with the issue. We are considering giving local authorities the new power in a specific area which they could only introduce after consultation with the police."

'Effing Labour. It's the MPs who need an effing curfew after what they and their council's done to us on this estate. I'd like to see them come here'

Martin Wainwright

TOXIC Crusader Ritchie Palmer, four years old with a fuzzy crew-cut and lop-sided grin, plays out until 8pm on his Bradford estate — two hours later than another, familiar local sight coloured pale yellow and green.

The 609 Yorkshire Rider bus, whose livery exactly matches Ritchie's T-shirt, has run its last service at 6pm for the past year, after drivers were bombarded with stones by posers of children as young as six.

"Not that daylight stops them either," says the young mum helping out at one of Ravenscliffe's wire-meshed and weed-sprayed and weed-sprayed stores. "I came over from Undercliffe this morning with my little girl and there was a gang of them ready to throw things at our bus."

Jack Straw had no prob-

lem harvesting her vote yesterday, or winning the backing of an older mother, in for a litre of milk while her children deliberated over lolly flavours.

"We live higher up the estate," she said, "and there were kids out running riot last night at quarter to eleven, maybe later. I won't let mine play out in the streets, beyond our garden, because it's unbelievable what the others get up to. Things like stoning the bus — I mean, we would never have dared."

"True enough," said the shop assistant, who grew up on Ravenscliffe, and keeps a firm eye on her six-year-old daughter (bedtime 8pm at the latest). "It's a very good idea to let the police send them in, specially at this time of year when it's light on a night-time. It might just help their parents make a bit more effort."

Further into the estate,

and its neighbour Green-gates, however, Labour's initiative was greeted with sarcastic laughs and a measure of plain-spoken Yorkshire abuse. "Effing Labour," said Mark Thomas, one of a group of neighbours sunning themselves in Rowley Lea, a street with a striking mixture of well-cared-for council houses and boarded-up wrecks. "It's the MPs who need an effing curfew after what they and their council's done to us on this estate. I'd like to see them come here."

The limitations of a quick-fix curfew law were obvious in the street, and its bedraggled cul-de-sac Rudy Haven, where every house has been abandoned and sealed with metal or wood sheets. The site, about to be cleared, was optimistically earmarked by Rowley residents for a children's play area, precisely to keep the younger ones

like four-year-old Rio Knowles and 10-year-old Robert Bairdrow in sight.

"That's what we need here, not a curfew," said Robert's father David, long-term unemployed but with a neat garden and a home-made stack of pens for his homing pigeons under a lilac hedge. "Yes, my two younger lads play out till 10 at this time of year, but we know they're in this street, and not getting up to any trouble. A play area would have done the world of good."

The disillusionment rotting the road, with its abandoned dolls and a torn Christmas decoration among the dandelion clocks, stems from the wrecking of these high hopes, according to neighbours. A trio of women heading off in maroon plinies to clean a local hospital said that consultation with local people had proved a dispiriting sham.

Teenagers on the mud-rattled verge shared in the scepticism. "If they did make some of the lads on Norbury Road go in at nine," said one 15-year-old, "they'd probably just smash the houses up instead. Who's to say their parents are going to be in anyway?"

Curfew for the Toxic Crusader was meanwhile approaching, and he was summoned by his dad, unemployed labourer Barry Palmer, who lives with his partner Christine in a quiet cul-de-sac on Ravenscliffe. The couple have their doubts but think the curfew should be tried — carefully — as a way of helping the positive side of local life.

"You said this a long time ago, didn't you Christine?" he said. "But they'd have to do it sensibly, make sure the kids weren't unattended and maybe start off with a trial go."

But within hours of his comments, Labour's chief whip, Donald Dewar, said on BBC's On the Record: "My first instinct is that this is a problem of very real proportions. I'm not sure that a curfew would be a workable solution. But what I do believe is that any responsible political party should be considering these problems."

Simon Hughes, Liberal Democrat spokesman on young people, said: "Curfews to stop youth crime is the latest simplistic, unenforceable and dangerous Labour idea."

"Curfews in time of local and national civil unrest are one thing. Curfews for law-abiding young people going about their normal activities is another."

Mr Straw said his idea was based on bylaws pioneered in 1988 by Coventry city council. He denied any link with an initiative, backed by President Clinton, developed in New Orleans to combat youth crime.

However, an idea from the Home Secretary does seem to be a British version of the Alabama chain gang, Michael

Howard wants to introduce distinctive "mark of shame" uniforms for offenders undertaking community service punishments in public. The idea, put forward in Britain by the Scottish Secretary, Michael Forsyth, would mean offenders wearing community service jackets instead of their own clothes when digging ditches, clean-

ing up graffiti or doing other community work.

It is expected that the idea will be included in Mr Howard's Crime Bill this autumn.

The Labour leader's office broadly supported Mr Straw, saying Tony Blair was deeply concerned about very young people roaming the streets at night. A spokesman stressed that the practicalities of the

idea had to be examined. Catherine Taylor, Labour's youth representative on the national executive, also refused to condemn the idea.

But Clive Soley, the Labour MP, said policies to help families were needed rather than curfews.

Leader and Letters, page 8

London and Dublin close to agreement on arms formula

David Sharrock
Ireland Correspondent

LONDON and Dublin appear poised to reach agreement tomorrow on a formula which would see the contentious issue of decommissioning paramilitary arms resolved days before all-party talks begin.

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Dick Spring, the Irish foreign minister, will meet in London for a crucial last round of decisions before next Monday's starting date for full negotiations on Northern Ireland's future. On the agenda will be the role of George Mitchell, the former US senator and President Clinton's special Irish envoy.

London appears to be preparing to endorse Dublin's opinion that Mr Mitchell should chair talks on decommissioning paramilitary weapons as well as negotiations on new relations between Ireland's North and

South. If this is accepted, Dublin believes an IRA ceasefire could be within sight.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, is expected to see John Major today and speak to Mr Mitchell later this week to seek reassurances over the weapons issue.

Hopes of a deal were raised by Dublin's warm reaction to comments by Sir Patrick at the weekend that substantive negotiations on constitutional matters involving Sinn Fein could begin before the IRA starts to decommission.

Mr Spring welcomed the remarks by Sir Patrick, who said that decommissioning should take place in parallel with talks. "Of course it ought to happen straight away, but I don't think we can expect it to happen instantly. Equally, if they are sincere, it must happen soon," he said.

Mr Spring said that Sir Patrick was being "very realistic", but his proposal that Mr Mitchell be given "overriding powers" in the talks will alarm unionists, already

angered by what they see as yet another climbdown by Sir Patrick on illegal weaponry.

But the two governments remain firmly committed to their demand that the IRA must restore its ceasefire before Sinn Fein can enter the political process, which begins at Stormont next Monday. Mr Spring demonstrated this when he strongly criticised a suggestion yesterday by Albert Reynolds, the former Irish prime minister, that Sinn Fein should be allowed to enter the talks without an IRA ceasefire.

Mr Reynolds, whose role at the centre of the peace process in 1994 won the original IRA ceasefire decision, said he did not believe the IRA would be ready by next Monday but that Sinn Fein would be able to deliver a cessation soon after that.

"In that context I believe a commitment from Sinn Fein should be sufficient that they will seek an immediate reinstatement of the 1994 ceasefire and be allowed into the

talks on the basis that it will be restored in due course, which I believe will happen," Mr Reynolds said.

He said London and Dublin would hand Sinn Fein "one of the greatest international propaganda successes" ever by refusing its elected members entry to the talks next Monday, a situation that would be milked by Gerry Adams.

But yesterday Mr Spring firmly rejected Mr Reynolds's suggestion. "I find that very unhelpful... if he were to search today he would not be making comments like that."

Mary Robinson, the Irish president, begins today the first official visit to Britain by an Irish republican head of state. Yesterday she said that the Northern Ireland question was very central to her four-day visit.

Although she would not encroach on policy issues, Mrs Robinson said her visit could provide some reassurance to unionists concerned about their status in Northern Ireland.

Post strike fear as dispute drags on

Mick Varley

THE first national postal strike for eight years is looming after a two-to-one vote by sorting office and delivery workers in favour of industrial action.

Members of the Communication Workers Union are threatening to bring the system to a halt in an 11-month dispute with the Royal Mail over new working practices. Alan Johnson, the general secretary, announced the 67,311 to 31,528 poll result to cheers at the start of the union's annual conference in Blackpool yesterday.

Last ditch talks between the two sides will be held next week, and Mr Johnson stressed fast results were needed: "We are coming to the end of the road in terms of long negotiations."

"This ballot result emphasises what Royal Mail already knew — they got it wrong. Their approach in seeking to introduce unacceptable and unworkable ways of organising the workload, while presenting an illusion of enhanced basic pay which in reality reduced wages for many staff, was a disastrous mistake."

The dispute centres on Royal Mail proposals to introduce a system of "team working", which management claims would increase flexibility. Staff would be organised into small groups and expected to work as a unit, drawing up rotas and cover-

ing each others' rounds as necessary.

The management says a one-and-a-half hour cut in the working week, improvements in pay and holidays, and a gradual move to a five-day week would go hand-in-hand with ending 1970s-style demarcation lines and old-fashioned working practices.

The union fears almost a third of its members would be worse off under the deal, which would leave many workers on a six-day week.

Postal staff in Blackpool said they were prepared to strike, albeit reluctantly. Chris Bennett, aged 48, a delivery worker, said his £277 weekly wage would be cut by £11.04 through the loss of shift allowances.

"We are not a militant office here but morale is poor and we are glad we have achieved this. Yes vote to bring things to a head."

A Royal Mail spokesman said the package the union rejected would still be available when the two sides meet next week, with added money on offer which could mean no worker losing out financially.

"We are aiming for a deal whereby everyone benefits," a spokeswoman said. "We've always said there is room for further negotiation and more money."

"Strike action will not solve anything. The union cannot be serious if they think hitting customers' mail will benefit employees. Every 1 per cent of business lost means 1,500 jobs are at stake."

Netanyahu pledges to lead Jews and non-Jews in peace search

continued from page 1

even if it opposed an independent Palestinian state.

"Our nation that we have achieved, even if we don't like the dreams that our partners may have," Mr Peres said.

lan Black Diplomatic Editor, adds: Yasser Arafat,

stunned by the Likud victory, arrives in London today for talks with John Major and with hopes of encouraging British investment in what he optimistically calls "the promising land".

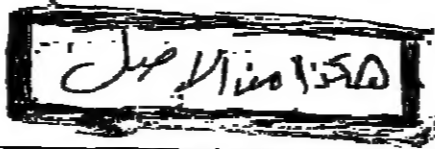
British policy, set out by the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, last month, is that Is-

rael should not rule out the idea of a Palestinian state.

Mr Arafat, whose visit was set up months ago, will meet the Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, the Labour leader, Tony Blair, and the Liberal Democrat leader, Paddy Ashdown. He will deliver a speech to the

Oxford Union tonight. Arranged before the Israeli elections, it is entitled: "The way ahead, the Palestinian perspective."

Tomorrow he is to make a speech at the Department of Trade and Industry to encourage trade and investment in Gaza and the West Bank.



Landmarks in aviation, great and small... Heathrow scores half a century, an Irish village notches up 10 years



A British Airways Concorde leads the Red Arrows display squadron in a flypast to mark Heathrow's 50th anniversary and (below) a modest crowd gathers for the ceremony to mark Knock's 10 years PHOTOGRAPHS: TONY HARRIS AND ALAN REVELL

It's a success story with a very Irish flavour — a 400-strong community with an international airport. David Sharrock reports on Knock's first decade

IT WAS deemed a miracle of the 1980s; holy and modern Ireland conspiring together in a mad scheme to build an international airport for the benefit of a County Mayo village of 400 souls and a Marian shrine. Ten years on, the operators of Knock airport this weekend celebrated an annual growth rate of 18 per cent and an operating profit of £400,000. The former Irish taoiseach, Charles Haughey, who

backed the project, described Knock's success as "a symbol of the triumph of vision and idealism over cynicism and defeatism". The airport's story began in 1978 with a visit by Pope John Paul II to the spot where the Virgin Mary is said to have appeared a century earlier. The local priest, James Horan, was already something of a legend, leading the campaign for rural electrification, setting up a marriage bureau and building a vast "hallroom of romance". From the moment the Pope set foot in Knock, Father Horan began his campaign for an international airport, imagining a pilgrimage site to rival Lourdes. His chosen site was a 600ft high plateau 10 miles from the shrine, surrounded by bogland. In 1981 Mr Haughey gave the airport his blessing and promised state funding of £6 million. When the Fianna Fail leader was booted out of power, the incoming Fine Gael-Labour coalition looked askance and suspended the grant. The incoming minister for transport and communication, Jim Mitchell, condemned the airport plan as "an ill-advised project far distant from any sizeable town, high on a foggy and boggy hill". But such were the vagaries of Irish politics at the time that Mr Haughey was suddenly returned to power and promised another £3 million — before getting the push again after seven months. This time the Fine Gael-led government reluctantly caved in. In the meantime, Monsignor Horan was chairman of the airport's development committee and raised a further £4 million through raffles, dances and rattling a tin at wealthy Irish American emigres. By the time the airport opened in May 1986, Monsignor Horan was chairman of its board, but within months of its grand opening he had died during a pilgrimage to Lourdes. Today's airport chiefs have not forgotten him. His name graces its official title and a bust of him has been unveiled this weekend. "Sixteen years ago I saw people cutting turf on what is now Knock airport," said Cathal Duffy, a garage man from Castlebar. "The airport has extended the holiday season by several months. He acknowledges early mistakes, with too much emphasis on out-bound flights. Today 82 per cent of traffic is in-bound. "Over the past three years our profits have been £722,000, and more than half of that came in the last 12 months with flights from Germany, Switzerland, France and Spain." Monsignor Horan's foggy, boggy hill is the closest Ireland might get to miracles these days.



Top universities threaten £3,000 fees

Vice-chancellors step up war of nerves by warning students

Donald MacLeod Education Correspondent

TOP universities are threatening to impose fees of £3,000 a year unless the Government pumps more money back into higher education. The war of nerves between ministers and university vice-chancellors will step up this week, with the official entrance guide warning students not to delay applying for a year in case they are

frustrated with tuition fees in 1997. "If you have a place this year you should take it, otherwise you might be caught out by a fee next year. Our recommendation is don't waste a year improving grades," said Tony Higgins, chief executive of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service. Universities were furious to lose 30 per cent of capital funding for equipment in the November budget. Faced with a threat by the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals (CVCP) to levy a £300 fee

on new students to make up for cuts in the budget, Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, set up an inquiry headed by Sir Ron Dearing into higher education funding. The levy was not implemented but many universities say they cannot wait for Sir Ron's inquiry which is widely expected to recommend tuition fees from 1998 coupled to an Australian-style graduate tax. "Unless the Government does something about the budget we will be forced to consider fees in 1997. This would certainly be more than £300 — it would be nearer £3,000," said a spokesman for the committee yesterday. The London School of Economics is to publish costings of the kind of graduate loan proposed by the Labour Party showing a student who borrowed a total of £12,000 would pay less than £2 a month over 20 years. Such a system would make it much easier for individual universities to charge fees, although David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, has ruled out introducing tuition fees nationally. In the short term only the top 20 universities would be in a position to charge fees without seriously diluting the quality of their intake. These members of the Russell Group — so-called because they

started meeting at the Russell Hotel in Bloomsbury, central London, near the CVCP headquarters to plan tactics — believe they are losing ground in the international research league and must take urgent steps to boost income. However recent attempts to bring in fees at the London School of Economics and University College London were defeated by staff and students. Most of the new universities oppose the move on practical as well as idealistic grounds. Piecemeal tuition fees would mark the entrenchment of a two-tier university system only four years after the distinction between poly-

technics and universities was officially abolished. Research funding is becoming more concentrated on Russell Group universities and this has a knock-on effect on staffing levels and teaching. A survey by Manchester university for the committee this week will show universities are short of money for equipment, and are spending more on maintenance than rival researchers in the United States and Europe. Multinational companies are relocating collaboration with universities outside Britain, and vice chancellors will argue at least £400 million is needed over the next five years.

Disappearing act by Blair's mentor

Ruaridh Nicoll at the church whose new priest has Labour worried

JUSTIN, Crispin and Adrian were a touch nervous about the reporters in their midst. It was Sunday and 11 o'clock, time to praise the Lord and the reporters were looking for Peter Thomson, a tall, silver-haired Australian who has just been appointed vicar to this parish, St Luke's in Holloway, north London. Mr Thomson is the man who, at Oxford, turned Labour leader Tony Blair on to the Christian Socialism that now shapes his vision of New Labour.

over whether to wear a hat, looked startled. The service was led by Justin Butcher, a young actor in the West End production of Buddy. During his sermon he would ask questions of the audience, pointing to fellow worshippers like Adrian or Crispin and wanting to know, say, Britain was like in 400 AD. To one such question he received the answer: "The world as an orgasm, oops, orgasmism." Chuckles reached the rafters and Mr Butcher parried with: "The earth moved".

Into this scene moves Mr Thomson. In his time he has been thrown out of two parishes, once in Melbourne when he was accused of being a communist (he's not nor has ever been), and once in Cambridge because he started a scrap metal business to try and provide jobs. He was also headmaster of Timber-tops, the posh Australian school which the Prince of Wales once attended. Over the last few years Mr Thomson has been farming in the rich lands at the foot of Mount Buller in Victoria. But last week he and his wife moved into a dingy flat above a Church of England community centre halfway between Holloway and Pentonville prisons. "I want no role other than friendship," he said of Mr Blair in a New Statesman interview. Whether Mr Thomson will fit in with his young evangelical flock remains to be seen. He is a dramatic enough figure to give them what they need. What worries the Labour Party is whether he will give the newspapers what they need at the same time.

Woodhead tells teachers to study eastern approach

Donald MacLeod

TEACHERS must scrap progressive child-centred teaching methods in primary schools which have left young people lagging behind students in other countries in mathematics and literacy, Chris Woodhead, HM Chief Inspector, will announce today. A forthcoming Office for Standards in Education report on international maths standards will point up the benefits of whole class teaching in countries like Taiwan where children start secondary school two years ahead of their English counterparts.

In an interview to be broadcast tonight on the BBC's Panorama programme, Mr Woodhead will intensify his pressure on schools to switch to traditional methods in a campaign which has won enthusiastic support from the Labour Party leadership as well as the Prime Minister. David Reynolds, of Newcastle university, who carried out the Ofsted survey, found maths in England was relatively poor, but with some strength in data handling and statistics. "English educationists now need to look beyond their own geographical boundaries to see why it is that other countries may be doing better than we do."

The way the Plowden Report of 1967, with its advocacy of child-centred methods, had been interpreted in some schools should be buried, says Mr Woodhead. "It is the burial of those misplaced understandings, misunderstandings of what education is all about." While denying he was laying down teaching methods, Mr Woodhead made clear the style he favoured. Whole class teaching should amount to 60 per cent of primary maths lessons instead of 25 per cent at present. Inspectors would report on standards and teaching methods and the link between the two. "I am telling teachers that

in other countries — in Europe and the Pacific rim — pupils are achieving more in maths. I am saying the characteristic of teaching in these countries is whole class teaching. I am saying to every primary teacher in the country that they must look long and hard at that evidence." In tonight's programme, Colin Richards, a former senior adviser at Ofsted, who has already accused Mr Woodhead of manipulating data to paint a blacker picture of schools, criticises his "narrow, utilitarian view of what primary education is all about", and says that too much prescription about teaching methods will turn

schools into dull, arid places. Mr Richards disputes the validity of international comparisons. "It is invalid to assume you can take any one particular factor from another culture and transplant it more or less intact." David Burghes of Exeter university, whose research pointed up the degree pupils in England (and Scotland) were trailing behind their peers in Germany, Singapore and Poland, said part of the blame for the growth of sloppy maths must lie with the national curriculum, the key stage tests and GCSE. He too urges more whole class teaching but with more pupil involvement.



Chris Woodhead: stepping up pressure on schools

Court claims cut police strength

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

HUNDREDS of police could be taken off the beat because of the cost of industrial tribunal and court claims brought by serving officers and the public, according to senior police sources. In London, where such actions are most common, it is estimated that there could be at least 100 fewer officers on the streets next year if the actions and settlements continue at the current level. Senior officers believe a

more litigious society and publicity given to high profile cases have meant that the costs of civil actions are bound to increase. Cases brought by officers have also risen over the last five years. There have been a number of recent high-profile civil actions, mainly for assault, malicious prosecution and wrongful arrest. In the most recent, in April, Daniel Goswell, aged 29, from south-east London, was awarded record damages of £302,000 against the Metropolitan Police for assault and false imprisonment. The previous month, Kenneth Hsu, aged 32, from south London, won £220,000 damages for assault and wrongful arrest. The Metropolitan Police are appealing against both awards. This week senior sources at Scotland Yard suggested that since the money for such settlements had to be found from the existing budget, it would lead to a decline in the money available for patrolling officers. If settlements continued at the present rate, it would mean as many as 100 officers fewer available for patrolling duties. Last year, the Met settled

140 claims for damages. They contested 30 cases, winning 28 of them. Jurists have been asked by barristers in civil actions to award punitive damages to send a message to the police. Home Office research suggests that civil actions cost about £200 million a year by 2004. The current cost is about £50 million annually. The Police Federation, which represents rank-and-file officers up to the rank of inspector, was involved in 3,256 civil actions last year, about a quarter of which were actions against police forces or police authorities.

Doctors discriminate against smokers waiting for heart ops

Chris Millill Medical Correspondent

SMOKERS are being discriminated against by doctors, who are less likely to offer them heart bypass operations than non-smokers, according to a report funded by the British Heart Foundation published today. Researchers have found that fewer smokers with angina are given a coronary artery bypass graft, even though their need for the operation is likely to be greater. The conclusions come from the British Regional Heart Study, which is following almost 8,000 men aged 50 to 59 in 24 towns. The research, published in the medical journal Heart, shows that among smokers, 1.03 per 1,000 per year received a bypass operation, but among ex-smokers the rate was 1.45 per 1,000. Richard Morris, senior lecturer in medical statistics at the Royal Free hospital, London, and a study co-ordinator, said surgery might not have been offered to smokers because of their supposed reduced ability to benefit.

Some smokers who were placed on lengthy waiting lists for surgery may have become ex-smokers whilst waiting because of their frightening experiences of heart disease. He said doctors may have used the withholding of surgery as a bargaining tool to induce smokers to stop. Dr Morris added: "It seems people who have given up smoking are more likely to receive surgery than those who carry on smoking. It is not massive discrimination but there are some differences. Some consultants are happy to treat smokers who need this major surgery. But in terms of priorities, if there are long waiting lists, there could be some consultants who would give priority to those who had given up smoking."

You feel a little disappointed when you find several parts of this enviable nation's media portraying us as "the Hun" in steel helmets and riding on Panzers. Ulrich Schilling on jingoism and the Germans

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World news in brief

Fighting shatters Chechen peace deal

THE CHECHEN peace deal patched together to support President Boris Yeltsin's re-election campaign is in serious trouble after a weekend of fighting, deaths and accusations of bad faith from both sides. Four Russian soldiers were killed and five injured in the Chechen capital Grozny yesterday when their armoured troop carrier was blown up. Russian military sources said an explosive device had been detonated by remote control. The deaths came more than 24 hours after a ceasefire was supposed to have come into effect and five days after Mr Yeltsin, on a lightning visit to the republic, told federal troops the war was over and they had won. Tension between Russian forces and separatists was already high after a clash in the town of Shali on Friday, which ended with 10 Chechens being taken prisoner, and the capture by the Chechens of 26 Russians in the Nozhai-Yurt district. Talks between the two sides due to be held in the Caspian port of Makhachkala on Saturday were cancelled and the Russian authorities suggested negotiations for Wednesday and Thursday in Nazran, west of Chechnia. Two key figures who command trust on both sides were trying to resolve the crisis yesterday - Tim Guldinann, head of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe's delegation in Grozny, and Aslan Maskhadov, the overall Chechen military commander. But the gap between the two sides seems wider than ever. - James Meek, Moscow, Moscow Diary, page 11

Protests at tough gun laws

JOHN HOWARD, the Australian prime minister, vowed yesterday to introduce tough gun laws after a second shooting spree in a month, despite big anti-gun control rallies and threats of a political campaign by gun owners. "I understand how strongly some people feel about this issue and I've always acknowledged there are a lot of law-abiding people who are going to be affected by these new laws," he said. About 50,000 gun owners staged one of the country's biggest protests since the Vietnam war on Saturday, hours after a man armed with a pump-action shotgun, wounded five people near the city of Darwin, capital of the Northern Territory. A rally of about 7,500 gun owners in Adelaide, South Australia, yesterday warned of a ballot box backlash against the tough new laws. Gun owners carried signs with slogans such as "Punish the criminals! Not the innocent". - Reuters, Sydney.

Clinton bounces back

PRESIDENT Clinton appears to have suffered little political damage from last week's guilty verdicts in the Whitewater affair, according to a new poll published yesterday. Although 58 per cent of Americans believe the Clintons are guilty of a cover-up on Whitewater, a Newsweek survey gave the president a 17-point lead against his Republican rival, Senator Bob Dole. The poll, taken after three of Mr Clinton's associates were convicted on multiple fraud charges in Arkansas, found the president beating Mr Dole by 49 per cent to 33 per cent. Meanwhile, administration officials conceded they had lost key documents relating to the inquiry into the controversial 1993 firing of the White House travel staff. - Jonathan Freedland, Washington.

UN embezzlement scandal

A SENIOR American official of a Geneva-based United Nations agency is being investigated on suspicion of having embezzled between \$200,000 (£133,300) and \$900,000 in UN funds, the United Nations announced on Friday. Under UN rules, the official was not identified because formal charges have not yet been made. However, Sylvia Fox, the spokeswoman for Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the secretary-general, said he was a US citizen who has been in Geneva for 30 years and most recently has been a high-ranking official of the UN Conference on Trade and Development. The case comes at a potentially awkward time for the UN which has been struggling to extricate itself from a financial crisis caused chiefly by the failure of the United States to pay between \$1.2 billion and \$1.5 billion in back dues. - John Goshko, Washington Post.

Indian PM to woo investors

H. D. DEVE GOWDA (right), waits to take the oath as India's 12th prime minister at the presidential palace in New Delhi on Saturday. Mr Gowda, head of the ruling 13-party United Front, has shown that he will zealously pursue free-market policies by naming Palaniappan Chidambaram, educated in Harvard, as his finance minister, party officials said yesterday. Chidambaram sends the right signals to external investors, said Jaipal Reddy, spokesman of the United Front. The Communist Party of India, one of the country's two main communist groups, joined the coalition, which took power on Saturday. Its presence in government was not expected to dampen Mr Gowda's enthusiasm for market-friendly policies. "We will sort differences out," he said. - Reuters, New Delhi.



Ukraine goes nuclear-free

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin yesterday praised the pullout from neighbouring Ukraine of the last nuclear weapons inherited from the former Soviet Union. Ukraine announced on Saturday that it had shipped its last warheads to Russia and was now nuclear-free. It gave up the weapons in exchange for promises of nuclear fuel from Russia and aid from the United States. Mr Yeltsin praised the efforts of all three sides and said the operation had not been easy. "Despite the fact that the sides had to tackle sometimes difficult political, economic and technical problems, common sense and commitment to international obligations always took the upper hand," he said. - AP, Moscow.

Tribunal for errant children

A NEW tribunal aimed at helping parents collect maintenance from children has won immediate business, confounding sceptics who thought Asian parents would not want to take such legal steps, the Singapore Sunday Times said yesterday. The tribunal received 11 claims and several telephone queries on Saturday, its first day of business, the paper said. Set up under legislation passed last year, the tribunal provides a legal mechanism for neglected parents. - Reuters, Singapore.

Every year three or four children are boiled alive, as they fall down the shafts into the hot water. No-one takes much notice of their deaths. David Hearst on Moscow's hot water system

Guardian writers report on the changing face of post-communist eastern Europe



Defeat in victory... The Czech prime minister, Vaclav Klaus, meets the press as results showed his coalition falling short of a parliamentary majority

PHOTOGRAPH MICHAL DOLEZAL

Klaus clings on despite trimmed sails

Prague/The Czech election results may bring parliamentary gridlock, writes Ian Traynor

IN A CLIFFHANGER election at the weekend, Czechs reaffirmed the prime minister, Vaclav Klaus, as their leader but trimmed his sails by denying him a parliamentary majority. Although the final make-up of the 200-seat parliament has still to be calculated, projections based on a complete vote count last night gave Mr Klaus's three-party centre-right coalition 98 seats - two short of a working majority and 13 fewer than before. President Vaclav Havel was locked in talks with Mr Klaus yesterday. He was expected to ask the prime minister to try to form a government, since Mr Klaus's Civic Democratic Party emerged the strongest with 29.6 per cent of the vote, but only 3 points ahead of the rejuvenated Social Democrats of Milos Zeman.

calls for the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Gypsies, and warnings that the country was being swallowed up by Germany. Their extremist leader, Miroslav Sladek, warned yesterday that parliament was in for a rocky ride. Mainstream politicians and commentators were alarmed that the extreme right and left had mustered more than 20 per cent of seats between them and could cause trouble, given the lack of a stable ruling majority. The verdict on Mr Klaus as arguably the most successful leader to emerge from eastern Europe's 1989 revolutions of fervently endorsed his policies but cut him down to size. The overbearing Mr Klaus, aged 55, is highly respected, but unloved. He failed to appear yesterday for a television debate on the country's future - the only leader among the six parties that made it over the 5 per cent hurdle into parliament not to take part in the debate. His deputy, Jan Vlach, claimed the poll was a victory for the right against the left. Mr Zeman signalled that he was happy to linger for a while in opposition when he ruled out a "grand coalition" with Mr Klaus's party or co-operation with the Communists or the extreme right. Mr Klaus is also known to favour Westminster-style adversarial politics over continental-style consensus coalitions, making the prospect of a coalition between the two big parties look remote. The uncertain outcome means President Havel, who is relatively powerless and does not enjoy a warm relationship with the prime minister, could be thrust back into the limelight, as an anchor of stability amid parliamentary paralysis. Jan Fischer of the national election commission said there was a margin of error of one in the projection that gave the Klaus coalition 98 of the 200 seats. Edvard Ouztrac, head of the Czech statistical office, indicated that Mr Klaus might yet scrape the magic 101 figure. But with 12 seats still to be distributed between the six parties, it seemed unlikely that the Klaus coalition would secure the nine it needed to reach a majority.

Few hopes for run-off polls

Tirana/A heavy police presence clouds elections tainted by foul play. Helena Smith reports. THE Albanian president, Sali Berisha, was conspicuous by his absence yesterday as voters took part in run-off polls that marked the end of a general election marred by controversy. Despite seeing his Democratic Party win an overwhelming, if disputed, victory in the first round a week ago, allegations of huge vote-rigging have "visibly shaken" the president, reports said. With passions running high among opposition party supporters, Dr Berisha, age 51, has been accused of plotting the return of one-party rule in the former Stalinist state. "This is a neo-dictatorship run by highlanders," said Prec Zogaj, one of more than 100 opposition activists on hunger strike to protest the alleged voting fraud. The Democrats' victory has secured the government will control at least 120 seats in the 140-member parliament. Western officials said the president was hoping the run-offs would produce enough opposition MPs to lead the parliament credibility. The main opposition continued to boycott the polls yesterday, but several small rightwing parties fielded candidates in the 10 constituencies without winners. Opposition centre-left leaders urged supporters to press demands for new elections in a "national rally". Similar protests were banned last week by the Democrats who have rapidly taken control of the police and security forces in their four years in power. Growing numbers of police have been deployed around the Balkan state, which international observers left last week in protest at foul play.

Dictator's scar disfigures capital

Bucharest/Planners hoping to transform the city must overcome public apathy and foreign scepticism. Sarah Turnbull reports. A scar that cuts across the city centre, Mariana Celac, vice-president of the union, said. "We can't destroy what he did, because that would be repeating the mistakes of the past. The challenge for competitors is how to use the existing buildings and incorporate this monstrous wound into the rest of Bucharest." Although in the centre of Bucharest, the Ceausescu district remains distinct from the winding, cobbled streets and turn-of-the-century architecture of the adjacent banking quarter. But it will take more than the competition if Bucharest is to regain even a whiff of its former charm. The city, dubbed Little Paris in the 1930s, has fallen into sad decline. Once beautiful buildings are crumbling, garbage carpets the pavements and the roads are pitted with deep holes. In summer the pollution is suffocating. But convincing foreign investors to help clean up Bucharest will not be easy. Nicolae Idu, the government official responsible for attracting foreign investment, says that progress since the revolution has been limited to "ideas and feasibility studies". He blames the country's bureaucracy, seen as too inflexible by foreigners, and the conservative approach of Western investors. The attitude of the Romanian people, however, is the crux of the problem. "The city never looked like this before," Mr Idu said. "It started deteriorating in 1983, people stopped caring. Romanians have rejected everything about communism, even the good aspects of the system, like a sense of community." According to Mr Idu, it's time that Bucharest faced up to its image problem. In yesterday's local elections, the state of the Romanian capital was the dominant issue among candidates for mayor. The former tennis star Ilie Nastase has promised to fix the potholes. His main rival, the trade union leader Victor Ciortea, has drawn up a contract listing 22 improvements he would make to the city.

Pricey ticket to join Nato

David Fairhall and Ian Black. NATO'S entrance fee for the states of eastern Europe could mean a 60 per cent increase in their military expenditure, a United States congressional study has warned. Nato has avoided publishing forecasts, for fear of identifying the countries it is preparing to accept or reject, but the congressional budget office calculates that absorbing Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia would cost \$40 billion over 15 years. The amount would depend on how far the military infrastructure was projected forward to provide, for example, an integrated air defence system covering the east European states. The new members would bear \$28 billion of the cost, a burden their struggling economies would find hard to carry without Western aid. These US estimates form a sobering background to today's meeting in Berlin of Nato foreign ministers, though expansion to the east will be played down ahead of the Russian presidential elections on June 16. On Friday, President Boris Yeltsin said that Russia wanted a partnership with the United States and western Europe, but this could be hurt by Nato's expansion plans. The Berlin meeting will launch a process of structural reform intended to re-integrate the Russian military establishment as well as make room for enlargement. Ministers are expected to endorse the creation of a more flexible, mobile type of headquarters to run "combined joint task forces" similar to the Nato-led I-For peace implementation force in Bosnia. These will be able to call on alliance-wide assets even if some Nato members - particularly the US - are not involved. An operation could be sponsored by the Western European Union, for example, using American air transport or satellite reconnaissance "borrowed" through Nato. Washington suspects the French may use the new arrangements to undermine its leadership and promote the WEU beyond its real capability. To guard against this, it is seeking a residual veto. France is determined to create a strong European identity within Nato - an ambition shared by Germany. Holland and other allies who remember bitter transatlantic arguments over Bosnia. To this end Paris wants a political commitment from Berlin that a grouping like the WEU, designated the military arm of the European Union, will be free to take the initiative. The next steps in Bosnia will not figure prominently on the Nato agenda because no one wants to address the question of future security arrangements. Britain and France say their men will leave with the US. Washington insists its forces will pull out in December. No decision is likely before November's US presidential elections.

Odd deals in high places

John Hooper in Rome. SOME 500 carabinieri fanned out across Italy at the weekend to execute a flood of arrest warrants arising from perhaps the oddest of the many strange cases before the courts. Prosecutors in a seaside town near Naples claim to have stumbled across a global network for the trading of arms, gems and radioactive material. On Saturday, they announced they had written to the Russian ultra-nationalist leader, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, and a Spanish cardinal formally notifying them that they were among 31 people under investigation. Arrest warrants were issued for a further 36 people, including 12 foreigners. All but four of the wanted Italians were seized. Alfredo Ormanni, the chief prosecutor of Torre Annunziata, said his office was looking into claims that Cardinal Ricardo Maria Carles, the Archbishop of Barcelona, had been involved in money laundering and illicit currency trading through the Vatican bank. Mr Zhirinovskiy was accused of arms trading. Both Mr Zhirinovskiy and the Archbishop have denied the accusations, which arose out of an investigation into various minor wheeler-dealers in the Naples area. At least two of the criminals turned state's evidence following their arrest. One has since claimed that he worked part-time for the Italian military intelligence service, Sismi. He said he was asked to keep tabs on an alleged arms trader in Slovenia. On two occasions he was present when the arms trader met Mr Zhirinovskiy. He said the trader discussed buying a missile battery which Mr Zhirinovskiy was to get from Belarus and that the two men talked about the trading of material used in the manufacture of nuclear weapons. The informant's evidence might have been dismissed as invention. But a Moscow newspaper published a photograph of Mr Zhirinovskiy drinking a toast with the alleged trader. Mr Zhirinovskiy said at the time: "I have no idea who this man is. I have been in Slovenia once in my life and then only for the day." He said of

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Briton NEW CHINA Clashing close i

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Briton irons out problems with pop music

THE NEW CHINA

OXFORD philosophers have held seminars on logical positivism. Peter Ustinov lent his voice for a recorded guide to the Forbidden City. Shakespearean actors coached a performance of Hamlet. But it is a British talent nurtured in a toilet paper factory in Madison, Kent, that commands the attention of tens of millions of ordinary Chinese.

"They regard foreigners as slightly stupid," said Brian Anderson, a 43-year-old disc jockey and purveyor of strictly non-political pop to

Andrew Higgins, in the latest report in his series, tunes in to a radio presenter who is soothing the masses with his easy-going style and non-political chat

cities across China. "I come across as stupid and cuddly. You are less threatening if you seem like an idiot."

When China embraced Western culture before the 1949 revolution, Bertrand Russell, W. H. Auden, Christopher Isherwood, Bernard Shaw and many others voyaged east to join in the intellectual ferment of a society struggling to escape two millennia of Confucian philosophy.

Today, in a country again seeking to remake itself, British culture is once more making a mark.

Translations and imitations

of Barbara Cartland romances are sold on street stalls, state television shows Premier League football each week, and radio stations in eight Chinese cities broadcast Mr Anderson and his Chinese wife, Maggie Zhang, offering chirpy DJ chatter and pop melodies "to do your ironing to".

A former DJ on the pirate station Radio Caroline and presenter at Radio Tees and then Moray Firth Radio, he first mastered the art of soothing the masses at a Kimberly Clark toilet paper plant near his parents' house in Kent.

"My job was to play music to keep the workers happy. Their work was so boring they needed something to keep them from going crazy."

He now performs much the same role in China, where, despite new prosperity and modest new freedoms, most people live in cramped flats and hold jobs made more in-

secure but rarely more exciting by the advent of the free market.

"They watch TV with their granny but they have music to escape. Put on the headphones and they can float away. They don't smoke dope, they listen to the Carpenters," he said.

The media, almost entirely state run with the exception of a few avowedly unpolitical ventures, such as a Chinese edition of Elle magazine, remains firmly under the thumb of the Communist Party propaganda department, the most ideologically hide-bound and paranoid branch of the Chinese bureaucracy.

Foreigners are banned from live on-air studios. After the Tiananmen massacre seven years ago tomorrow, the authorities spent months investigating how a Chinese presenter on the English-language service of Beijing Radio had been allowed to announce that "a most tragic

event has happened in the Chinese capital". The culprit was the son of former foreign minister, Wu Xueqian.

Money has begun to erode some of the restraints, though rarely the suspicion that spawned them. Mr Anderson launched his broadcasting career in China soon after the 1989 killings with "Hello from Britain", a bi-lingual programme sponsored by the courier service DHL. Next came Nescafé Music Time and then Sony Countdown.

"We don't talk about politics. Perhaps I've been in Shanghai too long. All anybody talks about here is making money. But I wouldn't talk about politics on the Top 20 on Capital Radio either."

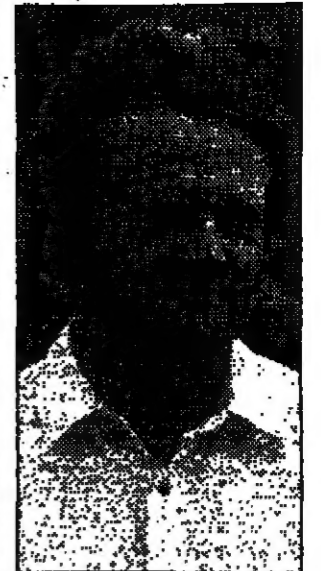
In return for advertising plugs, the sponsors pay Mr Anderson to make the programmes and Chinese state radio stations to play them. The shows, recorded mostly in Scotland and then sent to Chinese stations on tape,

reach a potential audience of 250 million people.

Mr Anderson has tried to enliven the staid formality of broadcasting. Chinese announcers usually speak a meticulously modulated variation of Mandarin otherwise heard only on language study tapes.

Instead of the customary on-air greeting of "Listener friends, hello and welcome to our programme of beautiful music", Mr Anderson prefers: "Hi, how are you?" His wife provides a jaunty translation. Another innovation is the record request — but only by post.

Shanghai's obsession with money sometimes gets Mr Anderson down. "If you are not interested in money alone, they don't understand what you are doing," he said. "I'm just an ageing hippie. I should be living in California listening to J. J. Cale and the Steve Miller Band."



Radio days: Brian Anderson in Shanghai has a potential audience of 250 million

Clashing interests close in on new PM

Derek Brown in Jerusalem and Jessica Berry in Kiryat Arba

THE Palestinians want Israel to redeploy its troops in Hebron immediately. The Jewish settlers of the occupied West Bank want to put their bulldozers and bulldozers to work. The religious parties want to close down McDonald's in Jerusalem, because it sells cheeseburgers.

The conflicting demands of office are closing in on Benjamin Netanyahu, more than two weeks before he is expected to take over as Israel's ninth prime minister.

He must soon decide whether to pull Israeli troops out of the flashpoint West Bank town of Hebron.

Yesterday the outgoing government headed by Shimon Peres, which had firmly committed Israel to complete the military redeployment by mid-June, simply passed the buck to Mr Netanyahu. The cabinet rejected Palestinian demands to order the pullout immediately, but pointedly described the withdrawal agreement as an "interim commitment".

The Hebron redeployment is central to the deep divisions between the old and new governments. Mr Peres was the strategist of three years of land-for-peace deals with the Palestinians. Mr Netanyahu, though he reluctantly accepts the limited autonomy powers given to the Palestinians, opposes any

more concessions. Hebron policy involves more than a clash of ideology. It is a city sacred to religious Jews, which just happens to be inhabited by more than 100,000 Arabs.

Meanwhile, bulldozers have begun to clear land confiscated from Arabs south of Jerusalem for a Jewish housing scheme. In Jerusalem right-wing groups are pressing demands for more Jewish housing in the Arab-dominated eastern half of the city.

They are clearly looking to

Feelings are running high in the West Bank. But before Mr Netanyahu can tackle the issues of occupation, he must first consolidate his victory by building a parliamentary coalition.

Yesterday, Likud leaders began negotiations with potential allies in the Knesset (parliament), which is expected to meet on June 17. That is when Mr Netanyahu hopes to present his new government for approval.

The new prime minister's own Likud faction only has 21 members in the 120-seat Knesset — but they include some of his closest aides (and rivals), who are expecting high government office. Two other rightwing factions which fought on the same list as Likud have five members each — and they too expect government posts.

The three religious parties, which have between them 34 Knesset members, are essential to Mr Netanyahu's hopes of a solid majority in the Knesset. But they will demand at least four ministries.

And even with the religious parties on board, Mr Netanyahu will also have to entice into his government at least two smaller centrist parties. His most acute problem is that by law, he is allowed a maximum of 18 cabinet members.

Meanwhile he will have to listen very carefully to religious demands for the closure of the enormously popular, decidedly non-kosher, McDonald's in the heart of Jerusalem.

'We are very happy. People were drinking wine, dancing'

the new prime minister for support. Yehayahu Yechiel, deputy mayor of the West Bank cluster of settlements known as Gush Etzion, summed up the ecstatic mood: "With Netanyahu, the sky's the limit."

In Kiryat Arba, the most hardline settlement of all, just outside Hebron, settlers spoke of moving new families into 200 flats which had been kept unoccupied at the outgoing government's insistence.

"We are very happy about the election... People were drinking wine, dancing. We feel good," said Tsuriel Popovitch, a spokesman for the settlement.



Supporters applaud a speech by Aung San San U Kyi, the Burmese democracy leader, outside her home in the capital Rangoon yesterday, in which she said they should refuse to attend government-staged rallies that denounce the democracy movement. "A mass rally should be one attended by people who want to be there, not those who are forced to go," she said

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Bahrain's emir offers olive branch to foes

Kathy Evans

IN AN EFFORT to end prolonged political instability, Sheikh Issa bin Salman al-Khalifa is expected within days to offer the people of Bahrain an expanded consultative assembly which is partially elected.

The emir's move is seen as the first olive branch to the opposition movement since his two-year-long uprising began to press for the return of an elected parliament and the 1975 constitution. The government previously dismissed the movement as "foreign-inspired" and backed by Iran.

On Saturday, the emir announced that the national council would be enlarged and that it was "propitious

and convenient" that it be given new powers.

According to reports circulating among London-based opposition groups, the council is to be increased from 30 to 40 members, of which half may be elected — probably indirectly, through professional and cultural associations — and the rest appointed by the emir.

The council was set up after the Gulf war and has largely been seen as a rubber stamp. Concern has grown in the past few months that instability was spreading to other states in the region. Even Bahrain's closest Western allies have privately urged dialogue with the opposition.

But Saudi Arabia, which pays most of Bahrain's budget deficit, is anxious that any formula for consultation

should not impinge on the absolute authority of the Gulf rulers. It wants assemblies to remain powerless and unelected, like its own.

A spokesman for the Bahrain Freedom Movement said: "Anything outside the constitution is refused. Such a council... would still not have the powers enshrined for parliament in our constitution." He ruled out dialogue until political prisoners had been released and exiles allowed to return.

The six Arab states of the Gulf Co-operation Council yesterday issued their strongest statement in years to Iran, warning it not to engage in "acts of sabotage" in Bahrain or other member states.

Iran has denied any role in the Bahraini unrest that has killed at least 25 people.

Expectant Japan wants royal baby

Mary Jordan in Tokyo

AS THE crown prince and princess approach their third wedding anniversary, Japan is whispering.

Since June 9, 1993, the day when Masako Owada, a Harvard-educated former diplomat, began life inside the cloistered walls of the Imperial Palace, she has had one crucial job: producing a male heir.

Princess Masako is only 32, but people are wondering why there is still no sign of a baby. At risk is the longest continuous family dynasty on earth. The emperor is said to be the 126th direct descendant of a monarchy that stretches back 2,600 years to Amaterasu, the Sun Goddess.

What was once unthinkable in the male-dominated country is now voiced publicly: Will Japan be forced to allow a woman to ascend to the throne?

In the past two and a half millennia, there have been eight female emperors. The law now forbids a woman to be the symbolic head of Japan. Attention has begun to focus on four-year-old Mako, the crown prince's niece, as a possible future emperor, which would require a change in the law.

Time, of course, has not run out. An emperor reigns for life, and the hoped-for heir would be second in line to the throne. Emperor Akihito is 62. His son — Masako's husband — is Crown Prince Naruhito, aged 36.

Still, gossip about a childless crown prince and princess grows louder almost daily, and Princess Masako

grows increasingly invisible. She makes brief public appearances, but almost always with her husband, and she rarely says a word.

"It's very odd; you never hear her voice," an imperial watcher, Toshiaki Kawahara, said. "Many people are talking about it, wondering if we are going backwards... if the family is more locked up."

If so, the jatter is the Imperial Household Agency, which runs the affairs of the royal family. Asked about the baby question, Tsuyoshi Soga, the palace's chief chamberlain, said: "I really wish the Japanese media would be more sensitive on this point."

The palace is where Princess Masako spends her days. Staff can't recall any overnight guests, even family or friends. She spends hours learning ancient court rituals and the art of waka, Japanese poetry. When she leaves home, she always travels in a chauffeur-driven black sedan. Cooks prepare a weekly menu. She shops through catalogues and from designers who come to her. The Japanese imperial family has no money of its own.

"In principle they are penniless," Toshiya Matsuzaki, a reporter for Ladies Own magazine, said. "They have no freedom, they can't do anything without government approval."

At the end of February, Crown Prince Naruhito addressed the baby question at a news conference. "I heard you all would like to know about the attitude of the stork. It seems the stork needs a quiet environment." — Washington Post

Jailed hack wins friends

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

THE front page of the northern California weekly, The Anderson Valley Advertiser, carries a quotation from the journalist Joseph Pulitzer: "A newspaper should have no friends." It is a sentiment that the rural paper's editor, Bruce Anderson, has been pondering — from a jail cell.

Mr Anderson (his surname is a coincidence) is behind bars for contempt of court after refusing to surrender to prosecutors the original of a published letter to his newspaper. It came from Bear Lincoln, a native American

accused of killing a policeman in a reservation shoot-out a year ago, in which an Indian also died. Mr Lincoln is awaiting trial for murder.

Mr Anderson, aged 56, says correspondents need the assurance that "I will not run to the government with their letters." Two appeals courts rejected his argument, and he was jailed 10 days ago.

Mr Anderson, a leftwing populist and libertarian, says the dispute is more personal than political. He has vilified the county prosecutor's office, headed by a rightwing Republican, and the judge who imprisoned him.

Mr Lincoln's letter last January was a reply to the sheriff's public insistence that the

accused had killed the officer. Mr Lincoln wrote that police had prepared an ambush and fired in a "shoot-to-kill war on the Indian population." He signed himself: "Fissid off, but still a peaceful organic vegetable gardener."

Shocked by incarceration, Mr Anderson surrendered the letter last week. But the judge refused to believe it was genuine. His lawyer will return to court this week with Advertiser staff who open the post.

Meanwhile, the editor has discovered he does have friends. One, a retired professor of criminal justice from Berkeley, wrote that the judge "demanded that Anderson back down and lick his boots. He picked the wrong man."

سكزا من الاجل

A curfew on commonsense
Jack Straw's rightward lurch

WHEN Parliament re-assembles this week, one of the first sounds we wish to hear is a clear repudiation of Jack Straw's confused argument for curfews on children in the streets.

Mr Straw's idea of a 9pm curfew is a con-trick. It is cheap tough talk about a largely non-existent problem which will be made significantly worse by the cure he proposes.

Anyone who stops to think about the effect of a curfew upon law-abiding and delinquent young people alike will see that it could lead to increases in family violence and to more homeless runaways.

Behind the ridiculous posturing of his statement that Labour has "zero tolerance" for anti-social behaviour, Mr Straw is increasingly leading his party into a Dutch auction with Michael Howard.

Mr Blair's pollsters and his instincts are telling him that Labour cannot afford to be seen as soft on crime, and doubtless this is the mainspring of the increasing rush to the right on law and order.

Sharing the cup

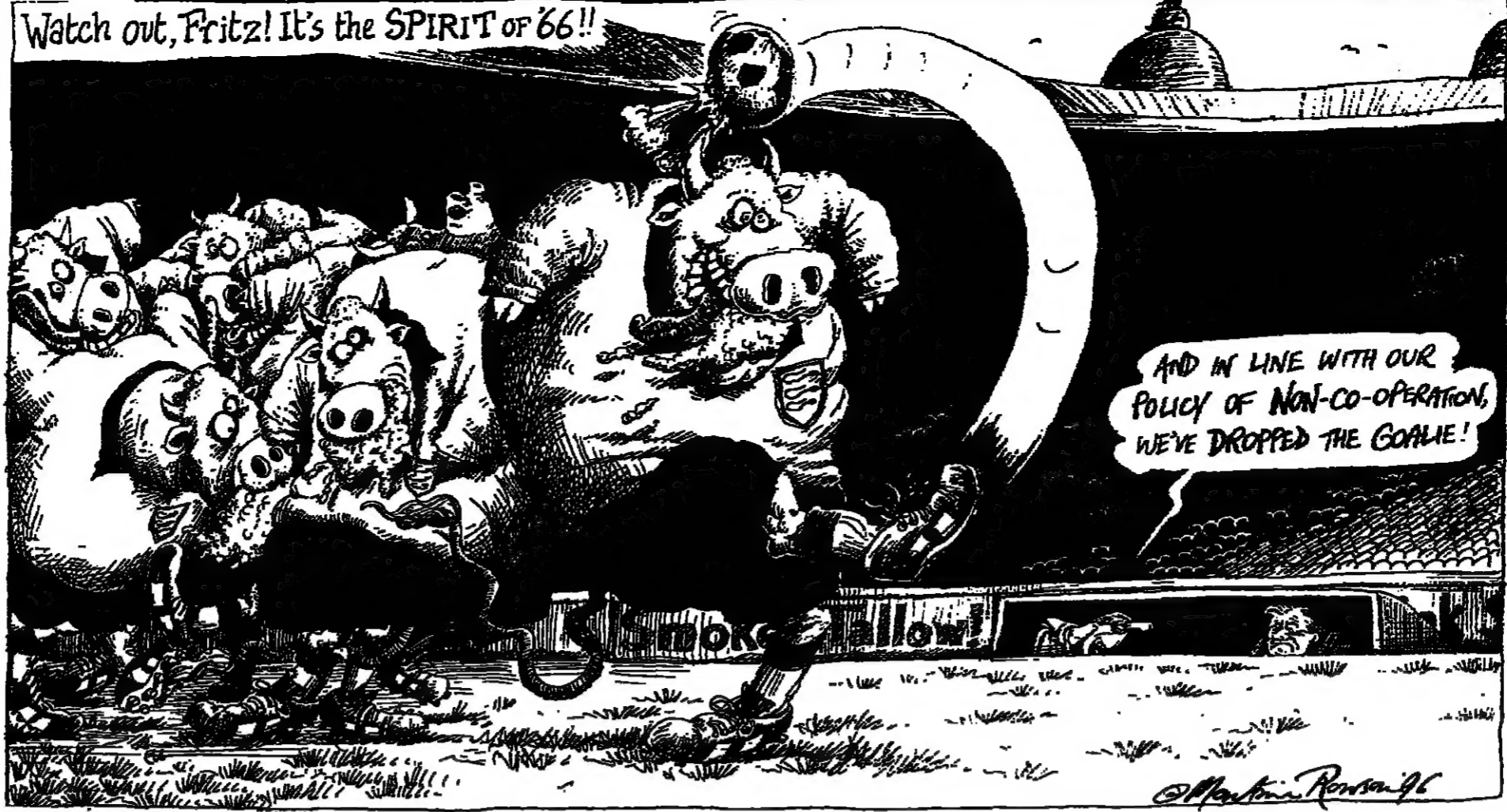
Can two really play the same game?

CO-HOSTING the World Cup for the year 2002 between Japan and South Korea is either a brilliant idea or a disaster in the making.

Korea has the stronger case on football grounds having reached the final tournament four times — three times straight since the 1986 games.

The resultant deal is more favourable to Korea — whose chances were regarded as increasingly poor — than to Japan.

Will football mend these historical wounds? First, a few problems have to be solved, such as whether both countries automatically qualify and where the final match will be held.



Letters to the Editor

Straw poll vs Straw policy

READ that Jack Straw wants curfews on young British people. Who is he to dictate when my children should be allowed out onto streets which I help pay taxes for?

I want my children to be able to walk our streets in safety, not be locked away at home watching television.

He says that he is responding to public demand. To test this assertion, I called 55 bewildered residents, picked randomly from the phone book.

I grant you that it was not a huge survey but I feel sure that it is more than Jack Straw has done before putting forward his ideas borrowed from good ole boy Bill Clinton.

AS someone who has applied to join the police force, I take exception to A Fernandez's views on how best to stem the rise in crime.

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

YOU have probably forgotten about A Very Social Democrat. For, when a Monday morning column is dedicated to a Sunday night event, it is eight days out of date.

It is neither my intention nor my wish to defend Roy Jenkins from the charges of elitism and snobbery which the programme made against him.

It is back in the 1960s, there was something called the Jenkins Set. I was not a member. I was, however, a political devotee who hoped that one day he would lead the Labour Party and become prime minister.

Halfway through the programme an ancient foot of film revealed the young Roy Jenkins addressing Labour's annual conference. The dismissive flapping of the hands has survived the years. But

Let's re-style the model

NOT ONLY Vogue should stand accused — the whole clothing industry conspires to convince us that an anorexic 13-year-old is the norm.

First, we must define "too thin". The internationally standard way of measuring thinness is the Body Mass Index, which assesses the relationship between height and weight.

The second step is for concerned advertisers to specify that no models should be used in their ads who have a BMI of less than 20.

THE incoming Master of the Rolls should view as a priority the early demise of the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau or, as it is soon to be known, the Office of Supervision of Solicitors.

Roll on

A second front in Europe's war

IT APPEARS from your report of football hooligans organising pre-arranged fights (Raids herald crackdown on Euro 96 hooligans, May 25) that a considerable amount of police time and expense will be used to prevent these confrontations taking place.

WHILST walking along the high street, in I admit, a rather dislocated frame of mind, I inadvertently bumped into a pedestrian. The now sporting a throbbing black eye, "Pavement rage" is on its way.

The professor applies the right of reply to the ethics of science

REPLY to the letters that question my claim that scientific knowledge is value-free (Juggling with ethics in the lab, June 1).

Science provides us with the best way to understand the world. I cannot accept Dr Neil Gascoigne's suggestion that it is merely another social construct.

SCUCH indignation from your columnist, Susie Orbach, over the poor, living X-ray pictured in Vogue (Commentary, May 31).

HIS TEAM OF SOCCER HOOLIGAN SUPPORTERS INSULTED MY SOCCER HOOLIGAN SUPPORTERS

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A Country Diary

LANGTANG, NEPAL: To name such a stunning bird after an 18th century judge impeached for corruption, as the British once did, now seems positively demeaning.

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Never mind the claret, feel the policy

Jenkins sent him an inscribed copy, which my mother has still. I was enormously impressed by that act of kindness.

I can remember the exact day on which I changed my mind. Jenkins was writing a book of essays called What Matters Now.

As a study of the tennis move of the middle-aged, middle classes in rural Oxfordshire, A Very Social Democrat was an undoubted success.

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Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

Handwritten note: 1500

Moscow Diary

David Hearst

TODAY, I am planning my first hot bath in a month. All things, like the Mosteployst, being equal. This powerful organisation, called The Moscow Heating Network, is the capital's equivalent to a natural disaster. When it strikes, everyone feels it.

The seismic thuds announcing the approach of this monster, are contained in a politely worded notice at our entrance each Spring: "Honoured inhabitants, in connection with the repair of the heating network, hot water in your home will be switched off from May 20 to June 20."

The Man from The Net turned out to be something of an expert in Soviet jurisprudence, which goes something like this: there are laws, but as nothing is published, no one knows about them. So you only know you have broken a law when it's too late.

After 11 months of space age heat, Moscow's experience one month of Tzarist village life. It's back to the galvanised bucket on the gas stove, a time when the burns units of local hospitals are full to overflowing.

For the philosophically minded, there is a Russian Jewish story about this. A poor Russian Jew, with 10 children, who can't make ends meet, decides to commit suicide. But being a believer, he goes to his rabbi first. The rabbi tells him to take a goat into his house and come back after a week.

That's how I feel, when the hot water pipe spews out the first drops of brown, mawkish, but warm liquid.

Wanted: home help for inside information

Commentary Mark Lawson

POLITICAL leaders are expected to have a season — a group of unelected cronies and notables which gathers around them — but Margaret Thatcher, it transpires, relied on the salon, while in office, in a different way.

Paul of Kensington has confirmed that he did, indeed, become tinner of Tory ideology. He told the Sunday Times: "Occasionally, I would discuss something with her in the morning, and would find her saying it herself later in the day. I was gobsmacked."

Blair seems already to have appointed his own confidant for his time in office: Peter of Islington. This figure is not a crammer, or indeed a spin doctor, but a vicar: the Reverend Peter Thomson, who converted the young Blair to Christian Socialism at Oxford.

Both of these disclosures have caused a certain amusement among the political classes. All those left-wing Tory ministers appalled by their leader's belief in "permanent revolution" may now understand that her model was the permanent wave.

It is clear that Kenneth Baker had little time for the Viceroy school of political thinking. He considered civil servants and professional political advisers a more fitting influence on national educational policy than some mere confidant who happened to be a parent. Yet Margaret

Thatcher's electoral genius in at least the first two thirds of her administration was the ability to understand what her supporters wanted. Perhaps this strength derived from a willingness to listen to the views of Paul of Kensington or, indeed, her cleaner, Edwina Booker, who Mr Baker has identified as another regular unpaid adviser on government policy.

It was already known that Margaret Thatcher — though often caricatured as someone completely certain of her own opinion — was easily susceptible to the prejudice of others. Her dislike of the BBC stemmed in large part from her husband's regular raving précis of the content of its programmes, which he had considerably more time than her to consume; equally, she was strengthened in her opposition to sanctions against South Africa by the objections of Dennis, a Rugby-lover, to the parallel sporting ban.

Even so, the revelation of her previously unknown kitchen cabinet invites parody. A cleaner advising the Prime Minister? A hairdresser writing the manifesto? Some of this is clearly a product of anti-woman sentiments in the Tory Party: the image of an old hat gassing to her domestic. Yet consider for a moment some of those whose influence on government policy was considered non-con-

versal. I might personally back the common sense of Paul of Kensington against Sir Alan Walters, the street-wisdom of Mrs Booker against Kenneth Baker.

Mrs Thatcher can be seen to have seized on a rare opportunity to converse with relatively ordinary people in the increasingly unreal world of high politics. This unreality has its own effect on legislation. For example, those in power have far more contact with policemen than any other law-abiding citizen. They have cops in their cars. They have them living in their gardens in huts. It may not be coincidental, then, that the police tend to be taken rather more seriously by government than, say, nurses or teachers.

Conversely, the gulf that has traditionally existed between national politicians and public over railway legislation — from Beeching to the Greater London Council "Fair Fares policy" — is largely explained by the fact that a standard

honour of high office is the need no longer to travel by train. A more sympathetic reading of Mrs Thatcher's intense sessions with her hairdresser might see in them something of the loneliness and isolation of leadership. A recurring theme in political careers is the search — surrounded, as you are, by dozens of people with vested interests in keeping you in your job or taking it away from you — for a confidant with a degree of objectivity and honesty. Harold

Wilson had Marcia Falkender. Richard Nixon took off for yachting weekends with the mysterious Bebe Rebozo. Jimmy Carter invited ridicule by consulting his young daughter Amy on the question of nuclear proliferation.

Tony Blair's wish to have his friend and confessor Peter Thomson beside him in his hour of testing looks like an acknowledgment of the need for someone to talk to who is not on Gordon's or Peter's side, who will not ring a lobby conversation as soon as the conversation is closed.

Most politicians are eventually destroyed by the isolation of office, the separation from the anxieties of ordinary people and honest opinions of anyone at all. From this rule, however, even Margaret Thatcher's hairdresser and Edwina Booker could not save her. They were licensed to speak to her of their children's poor schooling or frustration at their tax bills, but the forbidding shroud of her power prevented them from addressing the question of her own persona. Mrs Booker could not have said, in 1989 or so, "Maybe it's time you did your own cleaning. Dear. Leave it at 10 years." It would not have been possible for Paul of Kensington to murmur: "I can make your hair look flatter, but it's your head that's got too big." It is this role of permitted non-sycophant that the Reverend Peter Thomson could perhaps best play in a Blair administration. As for who is going to fill the Paul of Kensington position — advising the leader of the feelings on the street — even a man as telegraphic as Tony Blair would struggle to get away with seeing a badger every day.

But man with a grin like that must see the dentist fairly often. Perhaps he can find in the surgery the inspiration that Mrs Thatcher found in the salon.

An excellent case of bodged intelligence



Paul Foot

PEOPLE still say that in the middle of all John Major's disasters, "commitment to the peace process in Ireland" stands out like a beacon. So here are the highlights of that commitment.

When Albert Reynolds, Irish premier, told him in August 1984 that the IRA were about to announce a ceasefire, Major didn't believe it. Citing "excellent intelligence", he insisted that the men of violence would never stop the bombing. When the IRA, a few days later, announced a ceasefire, Major didn't believe that either. He said the ceasefire must be "permanent" before all-party talks about a peace settlement could begin. When several months later, the ceasefire was still holding, Major decided that talks could not begin until the IRA handed in their weapons. When Sinn Fein, the SDLP and even the Irish government denounced this "decommissioning" pre-condition as ridiculous and urged Major to set a date for all-party talks, Major refused. He called up the Mitchell Commission.

When Mitchell reported, in effect, that the "decommissioning" pre-condition was ridiculous and urged that peace talks should start at once, Major still refused to set a date. Instead, he ordered elections, which, he was informed by the same "excellent intelligence", would consolidate the centre in Northern Ireland politics and expose Sinn Fein as a party of straw. As for the ceasefire, "excellent intelligence" informed him it was now permanent.

In February, an IRA bomb went off on the Isle of Dogs. Major told the world that if the men of violence thought they could get him to agree a date for all-party talks just by letting off a bomb in London, they underestimated the resolve of the British government and the man of steel who led it. To prove it, he promptly set a date for all-party talks. Sinn Fein, he insisted, could not take part unless the IRA declared another ceasefire.

His message to the Northern Ireland voters was clear: a vote for Sinn Fein without a ceasefire was a wasted vote. When the elections were held, Sinn Fein, without a ceasefire, won their highest percentage of the poll in the North for 50 years, and everywhere the centre which the elections were intended to strengthen has been weakened. The only certainty for the future is that if the remotest opportunity arises for prevarication, pro-

crastination, bungling and drift, John Major will grasp it with both hands.

NOTHING lights up a charity dinner more than an uncharitable speech. Ian Gilmour, chairman of Medical Aid for Palestine, delighted the charity's recent annual dinner with a sharp attack on the British and American governments' open encouragement of the Israeli offensive in Lebanon. The US government, he said, had abandoned even the pretence of even-handedness or concern for international law. Gilmour is a self-confessed peer and still, just a Tory, but I am inclined to forgive him both out of respect for his lifelong campaign against Zionism and its imperialist horrors. He saw early on that the creation of a homeland for Jewish people in Palestine was only possible by the forcible expulsion of a million Palestinian Arabs from their homes — which would lead inevitably to permanent violence in the region.

Gilmour was followed by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary. Most people at the dinner applauded Rifkind's fair hostility to Israeli aggression (he even said "Israel must get out of Southern Lebanon"). But in general, Rifkind's speech was the usual Foreign Office double-speak. He read an unctuous lecture to the Palestinians on the importance of democracy, which he said was "the test" of their success. This from a man who had just proposed the expulsion from Britain of Mohammed al-Masari — for campaigning for democracy in Saudi Arabia.

A GUARDIAN reader from Glasgow sends me a copy of Martin Walker's report on May 24, about the declassification of United States National Archives which throw up "accusations that companies and financial institutions in neutral European countries worked hand-in-hand with the Nazis to hide their looted millions". Walker named the Swiss banks, Credit Suisse and Union Bank. My Glasgow correspondent noticed an advertisement that day in the Financial Times, proclaiming: "We have stood by our clients for 134 years and won't change our ways now." The advertiser? The Union Bank of Switzerland. "One Third Of Babies Illegitimate" reports a Times headline (May 31). Excuse me, "illegitimate"? The first definition in The Shorter Oxford Dictionary is: "Not legitimate, not in accordance with law, unauthorised, spurious, irregular, improper". By that (correct) definition, no children can be illegitimate. The fact that the word carries a second meaning — "not born in lawful wedlock" — arises from superstition and prejudice, which lingers only in the darkest recesses of religion — and in Times' headlines.

His speeches are carefully crafted but just what is Tony Blair saying? John Simpson, chief editor of the Oxford English Dictionary, analyses the language of New Labour

Verbal remedies

TONY BLAIR'S rhetoric is a town peeped by conviction. New Labour, new language. At least a new language for the Labour Party. Gone are the Marxist alibouettes which dogged Labour's speech in the seventies, and in their stead comes commitment to a future in which class war gives way to global economics and social security. Not the old social security, with its Post Office queues and giro, but a national (even an international) security based on partnership, mutual aid, and communitarianism.

The marketing of a political leader means that it is often all but impossible to unpick the real Tony Blair from the rhetoric of his spin-doctors and press agents. We are long past the era when the public believes that what a political figure says or writes comes entirely from his or her own hand. Even in face-to-face interviews on television or radio, the platform phrases could either be the leader's own personal contribution to the debate, or the results of lengthy discussions held in Party-filled rooms at party headquarters.

New Labour aspires to be the party of choice for the centre and centre-left. To achieve power it must also collect converts in their millions from the centre-right and the disaffected middle-right, drawing support from the old Tory and Lib Dem centre-groundists. No surprise, then, that the new slant of Labour's rhetoric sounds slightly Tory. The striking contrast is with the language of Old Labour.

We grew up linking Labour rhetoric with the terminology of Marxist-socialism. The "working class", the "means of production", the language of the Manifesto. What is new about Blair's rhetoric is not so much what it includes, but what it omits. "Socialism" gives place to "social cohesion", the "working class" to the "people", the "means of production" to the preoccupations of the middle classes: education, technology, benefits, taxation, pensions. What was that? Pensions? In the post-Maxwell age, pensions are a major concern of voters, and so pensions are on the agenda. The change is best highlighted by comparison with the current rhetoric of Old Labour. Militant Labour, Scargill Labour, rather than by comparison with the language of the centre-right. Tony Blair's future consists of a "task" (the word recurs repeatedly) rather than a "struggle". "Class" is an outmoded concept. Mr Major may dream of a classless society, but the phrase is written out of the terminology of New Labour. Words conjure up pictures, and the words which accompany a political credo are powerful influences on floating voters. "Socialism" itself is now associated in the collective psyche with the class-union struggles of the twenties. Peter Mandelson, and Roger Liddle, in their book The Blair Revolution, are at pains to distinguish



between Marxist-socialism and "ethical" socialism, the "true" socialism of social responsibility and cooperative endeavour which informed the Labour Party's origins. But old images are still too closely entwined with the word "socialism", and so New Labour finds it safest to rely for the most part on less ambiguous vocabulary. Blair: "Marxism obscured the importance of personal responsibility, concentrating only upon the social determinants that contribute to individual behaviour. For the left-of-centre, the great rediscovery has been the early social democratic view that better social conditions enhance personal responsibility; they are not a substitute for it." If "socialism" fades into the background, what about "Labour" itself? Isn't there an argument that if William Morris didn't use the term, it has no place in New Labour? But

its history is too strong at present, and the alternatives (Social Democratic Party?) have too many ambivalent resonances in Europe; cultural baggage which would impede New Labour in its attempt to reach through Europe to a global politics. It is important to New Labour that political terms have a pedigree, though that pedigree may be short. The intellectual exposition of communitarianism occurs in Amintore Fanfani's stakeholder capitalism in Will Hutton's The State We're In. This last, as well as Mandelson and Liddle's book, helps to establish the political credentials of the emergent Labour philosophy. It no longer emerges (if it ever did) without foreword and footnotes. The latest buzzword is stakeholder, contrived cunningly with shareholder. Up to this point in their lives, many people may have encountered the term stakeholder only when buying a house, where an estate agent may act as stakeholder for the buyer's deposit. But the word has 18th-

century origins ("one who holds the stake or stakes of a wager, etc"), not broadening out into "one who has a stake in something, especially a business" until the 1960s. Back in 1976, R E Thomas's Government Of Britain contains an apt comment: "Three approaches are considered here, the shareholder approach advocated by free-enterprise theorists... the stakeholder approach, as portrayed by Dahrendorf, and the Marxist approach." But how is this new vocabulary woven into the fabric of Labour language? "Labour believes everyone in Britain deserves a fair chance"; so how is the message put across? How are the "masses empowered?" Tony Blair is noted for remarks such as "the public is not deaf" (that seems to be an acceptable, non-aggressive adjective). The public, Labour strategists seem to think, likes to be spoken to in its own language. But the public is now anyone from the centre-left to the centre-right, so it is more problematic today to find an idiom which encompasses the full spectrum than it was when Labour was speaking essentially to the converted left (or even to the "broad" left).

BUT middle Britain has not been at the same time the more homogeneous linguistically. Estuary English binds east London to the Home Counties, independent radio and satellite TV reinforce a new demotic on the country. The audience is in the making at the same time as New Labour seeks to embrace it. New Labour can say that "stakeholding" is "not about going back to the seventies" (this use of "about" is stock in Tony Blair's language, in keeping with the search for an inclusive political vocabulary). There is the politically (and socially) "correct" expansion from "him" to "him and her" (more common in the object case than as the subject generally). The short sentence. Unity. One Britain. Unity is still strength. Little "Euro", as that is dangerous Tory territory. The British National Corpus is a good hunting-ground. It shows the most significant words which the term Labour occurs alongside. Top of the list, from texts principally of the early 1990s, is "Labour Party", followed closely by "Labour government". But a glance down the 500 most significant collocates reveals that throughout the 1990s the language of militant Labour has not been as prevalent as it is generally remembered to have been. The main verbs associated with Labour over that time are "commit", "propose", "accuse", "believe", "pledge", "join", "demand", "claim" and "attack". Of these, "believe" is the one that stands out most forcefully in the new Blair-speak; the language of conviction. New Labour. Back to the future. John Simpson is also a fellow of Kellogg College, Oxford.

CITY

CITY is a new journal looking at cities and their futures. Each issue is published in book form (192 pages) with a broad theme. The theme for issue 3-4 (available from 1st June) is:

THE RIGHT TO A SUSTAINABLE CITY...

Contents of this issue include: • Habitat II in focus: Towards stakeholder cities? Nicholas You (Habitat II Secretariat, Nairobi), Gary Lawrence (Centre for Sustainable Cities, Seattle), Akhtar Badshah and Janice Perlman (Megacities Project, New York) and John Turner (pioneer in self-help housing). • Global Perspectives on Habitat II • London and the UK: Microcosm or Special Case? Feature includes Peter Hall-v-David Hall on Planning, Michael Edwards on London's economy, Herbie Girardet on Reinventing London, and George Monbiot on direct action. • Reviews and Comments include Elizabeth Lebas on Lefebvre's Right to the City, David Ladipo on Don't Worry about Jobs? and cartoons from Steve Bell

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Leon Garfield

The past of imagination

L EON GARFIELD, who has died aged 74, was a writer whose work encompassed the broadest range that the term implies. Best known for his creative fiction, which included adventure stories set in Hogarthian London, ghost stories and comedies, all for the older children's market, Garfield also collaborated in perhaps the most imaginative and beautiful retelling of the Greek myths, compiled two volumes of Shakespeare stories, prepared the scripts for the Russian cartoon versions of the Shakespeare plays and wrote the television adaptations of some of his own novels. Last but not least, his deep involvement in the work of Charles Dickens inspired him to take on the task of completing *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, an enterprise that won him much acclaim.

Leon Garfield became a writer for older children by accident, since the beginning of his career as an author happened to coincide with the regeneration of children's publishing in the late 1950s and early 1960s. A contemporary of Philippa Pearce, Joan Aiken, Rosemary Sutcliffe and Stephanie Plowman, he too set his stories in the past — but Garfield believed he was writing adventure stories for adults until Grace Hogarth, newly appointed editor for a nascent children's list at Con-

stable & Co, read the manuscript of *Jack Holborn* and spotted at once that, if the author was prepared to make minor modifications, here was a writer of great talent whose work chimed in exactly with the developments beginning to take shape in British publishing.

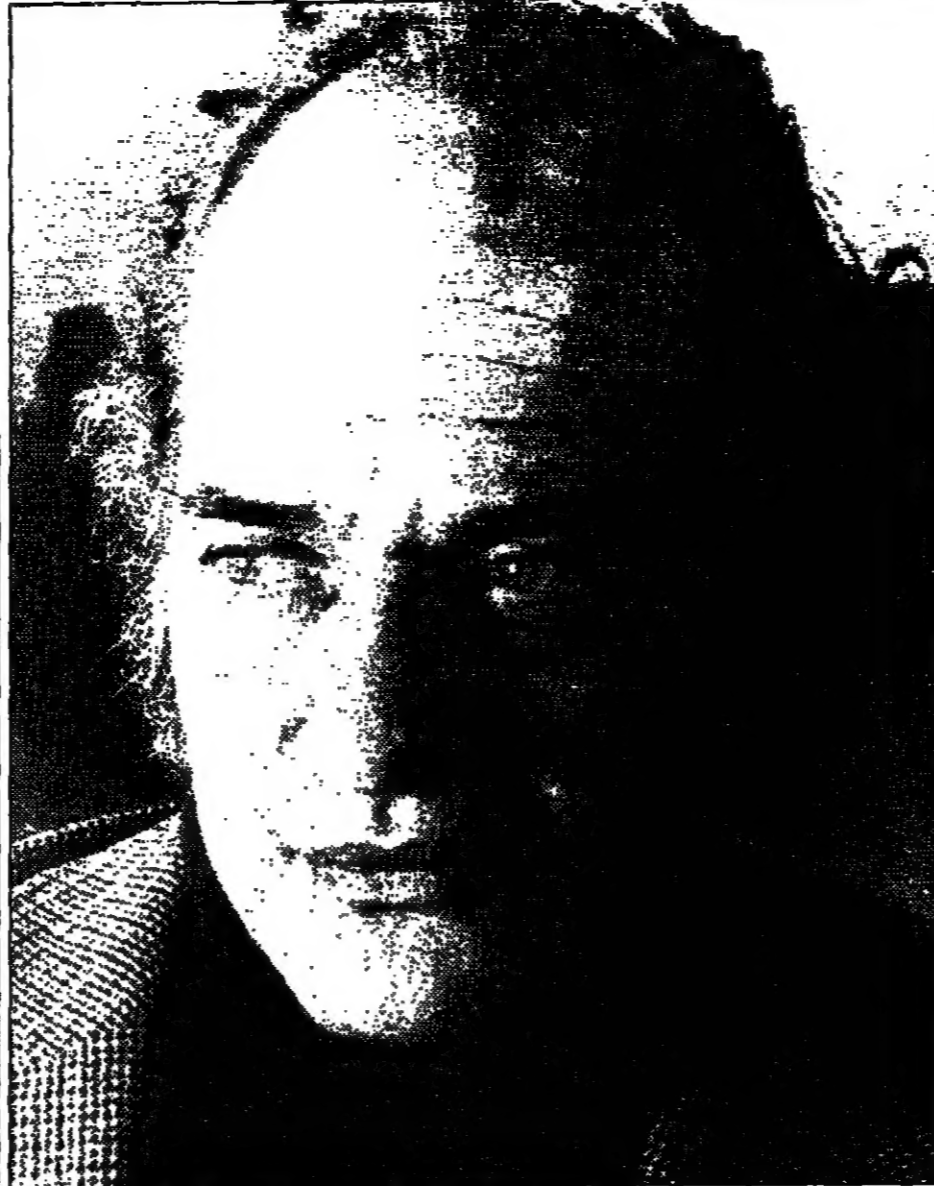
What made Garfield's writing special was his command of language (*The Bible*, Fielding, Stevenson and Dickens were his mentors), especially his startling use of simile and metaphor — comparing a storm cloud, for instance, to "a great black tiger in the sky... long tail and a great claw dripping down into the sea". Comedy and the macabre, sentiment and horror come tumbling together in Garfield's fast-moving, complex stories. He saw characters in the round, so it is his readers who have to decide whether a seemingly virtuous character was really rather evil — or an apparent rogue actually, on balance, well-intentioned.

An intriguing writer, Gar-

field could grab his reader with his first paragraph and never let go. His most famous novel, *Smith*, begins, "He was called Smith and was twelve years old. Which, in itself, was a marvel: for it seemed as if the small-pox, the consumption, brain fever, gonorrhoea and even the hangman's rope had given him a wide berth for fear of catching something. Or else they weren't quick enough." No need for fussy descriptions of what life was like for an orphan in 18th century London. You are there.

Another earlier book, *The Pleasure Garden* (1976), best demonstrated Garfield's ability to appeal both to young and adult readers. About *The Mulberry Garden*, a place where the young pretend to be old, the old young, the ugly to be beautiful and the poor rich, this earthly paradise is disturbed by murder and its inhabitants are forced into the world outside. Garfield's mixture of symbolism — *The Pleasure Garden* is a retelling of the Fall set in 18th century London — with adventure meant that while in this country he was read mainly by children, in America he was promoted as a writer of fiction for adults.

Among the prizes won by Garfield (including a number from overseas) was the first Guardian Award for Children's Fiction with *Death in the Fog* in 1968, and the Carnegie Medal in 1971 for *The God Beneath the Sea* for which,



Leon Garfield... startling use of simile and metaphor

with Edward Blisben, he transmuted the Greek myths into a single story with Hephaestus as the central character. In 1980, he won the Whitbread Award in the Children's Section for *John Diamond*, and in 1985 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

Leon Garfield saw war service in the Royal Army Medical Corps and worked as a technical assistant in the Biochemical Department of a London hospital before becoming a full-time writer — and an occasional critic for this

newspaper. He was married in 1949 to Vivien Alcock, a writer and painter, and had one daughter.

Elaine Moss
Leon Garfield, writer, born July 14, 1921; died June 2, 1996

Preston Lockwood

Of Dales and dachshunds

P R E S T O N Lockwood, who has died aged 83, was an actor of the old school. That does not mean that he was a booming ham, but that he approached everything with tolerant dedication and professional skill, that he had exquisite manners, and a twinkling humour. Fellow actors loved him, particularly the young to whom he gave generous encouragement.

Starting out as Reginald Lockwood, he made his West End debut in 1938 in *Troilus and Cressida*. It was in war-

time that his career as Preston Lockwood began and he became a household name. In the blackout, radio drama audiences were as large as any which television drama can achieve today. It would seem that his first acrobatic radio drama was in 1942, when he was paid eight guineas (£8.40) to play Grumpy in a play of the same title — it sounds like miscasting for "grumpy" Preston decidedly was not. Later that year he joined the BBC Radio Repertory Company, remain-

ing on the payroll until 1949, "to play as cast" in radio plays, but also as appearing as a presenter, interviewer, and quiz-show participant. These were the days of live radio when, as happened in an over-running *Hamlet*, the announcer intervened, saying, "And there we must leave Elsinore and go over to the 9 o'clock news". The adrenalin rushed, so did the actors, from one underground studio to another, from one role to another.

No change of make-up, just a change of voice and of character. In one year Preston appeared in both *Middlemarch* and *Pride and Prejudice* playing to audiences far exceeding those who viewed the recent television productions of these works — and for the meagre fraction of the costs. Few programmes were recorded so casts would reassemble and perform again for the repeat later in the week.

Preston had regular roles in radio soaps such as *Mrs Dale's Diary* and the subsequent *Wagoner's Walk* but the ongoing part for which he became best-known and best loved was at the German sausage dog Dennis the Dachshund in *Children's Hour's Toyshop*.

There are always elements of the visual in radio casting and the thing most noticeable about Preston was his lean longness, a longness of face and of back. Placed horizontally he would, had the legs been shortened, have made a very passable dachshund. To a post-war generation, of which I was one, who had been blackmailed to despise and hate the "Hum", his wise and affable depiction of this small Teutonic hound did much to dispel the propagandised dislike and distrust of a race who

are now our European partners. His somewhat cadaverous looks gave him an air of trustworthy authority. Hence in films and on television this son of a London Transport driving instructor played doctors, lawyers, undertakers, butlers and, especially, clerics. His was a face seldom off the screen, albeit often in smaller roles, just as his was a voice seldom off the airwaves across 50 years.

Last Christmas, Preston appeared in the radio serialisation of Agatha Christie's *Murder at Bertram's Hotel*. In the Miss Marple story he had played the major role of Canon Penryfeather but, because of his frail health he played a minor role, Archdeacon Simmons, on radio. This was an ecclesiastical promotion which humbly pleased him. After the production he wrote to the director saying that this had been the happiest engagement of his life. It was his last.

Because of the scale of his work, and because he played many more roles than other, sturdier, actors Preston Lockwood's name is familiar, but it was more than a question of quantity; his name was a signature of quality.

John Tydemann
Wallace Grevatt writes: Derek McCulloch — who played Larry the Lamb *Toyshop* — often found it difficult not to laugh an air at Preston Lockwood's interpretation of Dennis the Dachshund, which he played from 1967. Lockwood probably appeared in more post-war *Children's Hour* drama than anyone else. He was Inspector Martin in *Norman and Henry Brown*, a convicting Joe Gargery in *Great Expectations*, and played in Noel Streetfield's 1950s classics — *Ballet Shoes* and *White Boots*, and in *Worzel Gummidge* and *Carra Chuff*. He was every producer's dream in his ability to turn his talent to such a range of characters.

He leaves his wife Gerda who he married in 1945, and a daughter.

Preston Lockwood, actor, born October 30, 1912; died April 24, 1996

Duncan Stewart

Principal achievements

A S P R I N C I P A L of Oxford University's Lady Margaret Hall from 1979 to 1985, Duncan Stewart, who has died aged 66, presided over its transition from a women's to a mixed college. And as vice-chairman of the university's general board of the faculties, between 1976 and 1978, his last achievement was the establishment of a language centre to serve the whole university. An arts orientated vice-chairman would have no chance of curbing the great science barons, it was thought. But they were charmed, and tamed.

Stewart was born in Grey-mouth, New Zealand. His schooling was completed at Christ's College, a public school in Christchurch, the most English of New Zealand cities, and good preparation for his move to Oxford. He graduated from Canterbury University College — where he was a noted sportsman and president of the Students' Association — with a double first in French and Latin. A Rhodes scholarship took him to the Queen's College, Oxford, in 1933. He took a first in Modern Languages and French and became a Fellow of Wadham College. He was an inspiring tutor for 23 years and began research on late medieval French literature, especially on Villon.

As Principal of Lady Margaret Hall, he expanded its fellowship and worked to maintain its high academic standards. Undergraduates and graduates responded to his accessibility and friendliness. He was also a member of Hebdomadal Council, chairman of the libraries board, and a curator of the Bodleian Library. Stewart became an unofficial chief or *rangatira* to his homeland's expatriates in Oxford — the "New Zealand mafia" (or *mauihia* as it was termed, Maori-style). He entertained students, governors general, high commissioners — and the All Blacks. From 1985 he served as a Rhodes scholarship trustee.

In 1951 he married Valerie Bolleau. Their natural courtesy and liveliness made every guest, from the grandest head of house to the humblest undergraduate, feel at home. He bore the almost continual pain of his last years with great fortitude. The hope for a period of quiet retirement, divided between Headington and Montpezat de Quercy, with perhaps another trip to New Zealand, was harshly frustrated — as Villon says: "Mort saisit sans exception".

He leaves Valerie and two children, Olivia and Hugh.

Douglas Grey
Duncan Montgomery Stewart, academic, born February 14, 1930; died May 22, 1996



Radio days... Preston Lockwood in 1960. His wise depiction of a Teutonic hound helped alter anti-German feeling

Jackdaw



man was a real take factory. ● Nostril shot: Unflattering footage of a performer. The last scene with Madonna in a green wig was a real nostril shot. ● Hairball: A sappy emotional moment in a script. There's usually a hairball in every Friends script. ● Frame-grabber: A guy or gal who is so famous that photographers flock to that one individual at an event. Even at 80, Frank Sinatra is still a frame grabber. The National Enquirer gives us the latest tinsel town lingo essential for those who want to be a Hollywood native.

No beef, please
A BRITISH charity organisation carrying food to refugees in the former Yugoslavia has called a halt to donations of tinned meat — because of the EU beef export ban. Dumfriesline Eurosave is concerned that it may be turned back from the Croatian or Slovenian borders if aid packages contain British meat products. The organisation points out that the food

convoys drive through Belgium and Germany where they "would be within their rights to turn us back." The charity has therefore issued publicity releases stressing "No tinned meats, thank you." The mad cow disease spreads even further as reported in the Meat Trades Journal.

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Hell I'm coital pro Stephen Dorrell Leprechaun NHS riot The Labour Party Upehat harlotry Tony Blair "I only part Right Hon John Prescott MP NHS project hot ramp thing David Blunkett Devil dunk butt Michael Meacher I am arch leech me Gavin Strang Starving nag George Robertson Sober gent or ogre Maxine goes political anagram-crazy

Flashback
ISOLATION affects people in different ways, and island life can be utterly surreal. There was a lighthouse keeper on Fladda whose wife lived less than a quarter of a mile away on Arran. She was learning to drive and he would use Morse code with a torch at night to ask her questions on the Highway Code. Three

goats on Hyskeir in the Outer Hebrides insisted that humans and goats walk in sequence across the island; if they failed to do so they would be butted into place. The correct order, if I remember rightly, was goat, human, goat, human, goat. Peter Hill reflects on strange days and nights as a lighthouse keeper in *The London Review of Books*

Pipe power
AS LEGEND has it, Hassan built his infamous walled garden, a mythical rival to Kubla Khan's pleasure dome, the memory of which survived the passage of time to be recalled by Marco Polo in 1273, nearly 300 years later. "He had made in a valley between the biggest and most beautiful garden that was ever seen, planted with all the finest fruits in the world and containing the most splendid mansion and palaces known to man, ornamented with gold and with likeness of all that is beautiful on earth; and also four conduits, one flowing with

wine, one with milk, one with honey, and one with water." There were fair ladies there and damsels, the loveliest in the world, untrivalled at playing every sort of instrument and at singing and dancing. And he gave his men to understand that this garden was Paradise. "No man was allowed to enter the garden save those whom he intended to be his



Idler: legend celebrated

Appreciation: Timothy Leary

Tripping the life fantastic

T H E ONLY drug I shared with Timothy Leary (obituary, May 29) was champagne. When he visited Australia's Blue Mountains on his 69th birthday, I had expected a well-raiser with iridescent eyes and a headband to materialise but it was more like meeting a Confederate officer from *Gone with the Wind*.

He strolled among our mauve rhododendrons with easy grace, surprisingly witty, short-haired and self-mocking, cradling his long stemmed glass and our newborn daughter. Admittedly, his minders danced about in cosmic beanie and silver Data Gloves, inhaling constantly, while the former West Point cadet languidly extolled the virtues of his latest frontier — cyberspace. Not so many, I reflected later, would have entrusted a child with the world's foremost pusher. For that's what Timothy was, ultimately. He pushed drugs, the established buttons, and the frontiers of human experience, as easily as falling off a log.

I still recall the frisson of shock I felt at his first rallying cry: turn on, tune in, drop out. Oh sure, I muttered, penning a headline in response. But events got the better of my disdain, as it did with hundreds of thousands of others; and we danced beneath the diamond skies, both arms waving free, forgetting about today until tomorrow. Was Tim a sage or the Devil?

While it is certain that excessive and careless intake of LSD has wrecked lives — who knows how many? — it is equally certain that a majority of trippers look back on their inner voyages in wonderment and gratitude. Just about everyone of my generation I've ever met, has been a dose of acid, and those who never did, for the most part, should have. After the hallucinations wore off and pop culture moved on, the thirst for alternative realities remained. Laugh as you might at the mystic revival in the West in recent

decades, the bursts of yoga meditation, Buddhism, the insights of deep ecology and transpersonal psychology, the shift to holistic health, the shareware philosophy of cyberspace and so much more, the spores of these social changes were carried on the winds of psychedelia.

Leary's first acid trips were a revelation, and he wanted the world to share his cosmic bliss. In the early Harvard "experiments", he took bigger and bigger doses over extended durations, so he could avoid "coming down", revealing the role that denial played in his life. (Yes, he was a lousy husband.) In the end he all have to land, even the eagle and trip the world with our feet on the ground. This he could never accept, and thus the allure of the shimmering silicon galaxies.

In my sleepy village, when word spread of Leary's visit, frazzled mums arrived at the floor with flowers in their hair, lighting up with memories of hash cookies in the Hindu Kush. There was dancing, laughter and star-gazing; my wife exhumed an embroidered skirt from Rajasthan, flashing with mirrors, people said "wow", and we joked about a collective acid flashback. By morning, Mr Tambourine Man was on the plane to California, and I was cutting the school lunches, wishing him well.

Many will rejoice at the death of Timothy Leary the "monster who glamourised drugs". It is true he over-enthused. He was too intent on pushing the horizons to ordinary mortals, and much of today's drug culture is a crucible of tragedy. But Leary wasn't marketing drugs as a product, he was pushing ecstasy as a political right, and proclaiming chemicals as the key to the kingdom of heaven. If they are, why many doubt Timothy Leary, tripping out to the end, is fronting up to those pearly gates, where St Peter will launch a new celestial campaign: Just Say No...

Richard Neville

Geoffrey Dawes

Safe birth by proxy

T H E D R A M A T I C fall in perinatal mortality (late stillbirths and early neonatal deaths) over the past 35 years owes a great deal to the backstage work of foetal and newborn physiologists of whom Professor Geoffrey Dawes, who has died aged 78, was the foremost exemplar.

Strang, Peter Tizard, Monty Liggins and others, effected one of the most successful of the transformations of clinical know-how into science-based medicine that have distinguished modern medicine surgery and obstetrics.

On retirement, Dawes devoted his energy and organisational skills with comparable success to the Lister Institute, before dying suddenly in what seemed to his many devoted friends and pupils a long extension of the prime of life. Not many men could have claimed to have saved so many lives by proxy. He is survived by his wife the historian Margaret Dawes and his gifted children.

John Davies
Professor Geoffrey Dawes, physiologist, born January 21, 1918; died May 6, 1996

Over and above this systematic scientific study of what such sequential adaptations entailed, he educated a generation of obstetricians and paediatricians in the implications of physiological knowledge for clinical practice in the living in wards. He himself learned from them of the problems that they were faced with and what they needed to know to intervene with success when things went wrong.

It could be said that with his colleague Joan Mott, and in serial collaboration with Kenneth Cross, Leonard

Death Notices

MURPHY On 30th May 1996 peacefully Guy and the late Richard much loved by all. Funeral service at 11.00am at St. Paul's Church, Alderley Edge at 11.00am on Tuesday 4th June 1996 at 2.30pm at St. Paul's Church, Alderley Edge. Family flowers only. All enquiries to Albert J. Black, Funeral Director, 125, The Green, Oak Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AT Tel: Wilmslow (01625) 525000

☛ To place your announcement telephone 0171 713 4647. Fax 0171 713 4124

Buzzwords

● Fannybumper: crowded party. It was a real fanny-bumper, and I got crushed between Roseanne and John Goodman.

● Temperentary: An agent (they traditionally get a ten per cent cut).

● Face Time: A meeting. Have your temperentary call my temperentary and we'll do face time over lunch.

● Joke Desert: A page of script lacking humour. Seinfeld's addition to the show today was a joke desert.

● Take factory: An actor who causes multiple retakes. After a night of bouncing from club to club, our leading

● Nostril shot: Unflattering footage of a performer. The last scene with Madonna in a green wig was a real nostril shot.

● Hairball: A sappy emotional moment in a script. There's usually a hairball in every Friends script.

● Frame-grabber: A guy or gal who is so famous that photographers flock to that one individual at an event. Even at 80, Frank Sinatra is still a frame grabber.

The National Enquirer gives us the latest tinsel town lingo essential for those who want to be a Hollywood native.

● No beef, please

A BRITISH charity organisation carrying food to refugees in the former Yugoslavia has called a halt to donations of tinned meat — because of the EU beef export ban.

Dumfriesline Eurosave is concerned that it may be turned back from the Croatian or Slovenian borders if aid packages contain British meat products. The organisation points out that the food

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Ashlith. At the entrance stood a fortress strong enough to resist all the world and here The Old Man kept in his court a number of youths, from twelve to twenty years of age, such as had a taste for soldiering. And to these he used to tell tales about Paradise, just as Mahomet had been wont to do, and they believed in him just as the Saracens believe in Mahomet. Then he would introduce them into his garden, some four, or six, or ten at a time, having first made them drink from a certain potion that cast them into a deep sleep and they were taken and put in the garden. When they awoke and found themselves in there and saw all the things I have told you of, they believed they were really in Paradise. And the ladies and the damsels stayed with them all the time, singing and making music for their delight and ministering to all their desires."

The potion was hashish, dealt out to only a chosen few. It allowed Hassan the power to convert and was kept, along with the beautiful dam-

Jackdaw

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No beef, please

A BRITISH charity organisation carrying food to refugees in the former Yugoslavia has called a halt to donations of tinned meat — because of the EU beef export ban. Dumfriesline Eurosave is concerned that it may be turned back from the Croatian or Slovenian borders if aid packages contain British meat products. The organisation points out that the food

convoys drive through Belgium and Germany where they "would be within their rights to turn us back." The charity has therefore issued publicity releases stressing "No tinned meats, thank you." The mad cow disease spreads even further as reported in the Meat Trades Journal.

Anagrams

The Conservative Party Reach Vain Party Voters Prime Minister John Major
John Merriment ship 'Major' Michael Heselittle I'm the senile leach Kenneth Clarke Ken rant heckle Michael Howard Ha ha! Mr idle cow Peter Lilley Yell pert lie Virginia Bottomley I am violent bigotry Sir Patrick Mayhew A streaky rich wimp William Waldegrave I'm a vile lewd rag law Gillian Shepherd Hush rapid nag Michael Portillo

Flashback

ISOLATION affects people in different ways, and island life can be utterly surreal. There was a lighthouse keeper on Fladda whose wife lived less than a quarter of a mile away on Arran. She was learning to drive and he would use Morse code with a torch at night to ask her questions on the Highway Code. Three

wine, one with milk, one with honey, and one with water.

There were fair ladies there and damsels, the loveliest in the world, untrivalled at playing every sort of instrument and at singing and dancing. And he gave his men to understand that this garden was Paradise. "No man was allowed to enter the garden save those whom he intended to be his

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Better off as 51st state

Cultural links lie across the Atlantic bridge

Larry Elliott

IN THE shadow of Tower Bridge, a few yards from where the grey-bearded Beefeaters strut and pose for pictures, people are playing petanque, a game of bowls popular in the south of France.

For some it might be symbolic — a sign that Britain's traditional isolationism is being eroded by European culture, whatever the shenanigans in Brussels over beef bans, fish quotas and resolute non-cooperation.

But while the analysis is right — that culture drives economics and politics rather than the other way round — the conclusion is wrong. Britain may get 50 per cent of its imported goods from Europe, but it gets 95 per cent of its culture from the United States. Like it or not, popular culture here has been shaped by Walt Disney, Elvis Presley and Ronald McDonald rather than François Truffaut, Johnny Halliday and Paul Bocuse.

There is no sense of this ever changing. Britain understands America in a way that it will never understand Europe, because the mass media is the driving force behind the modern world, and that is where America's dominance lies.

Think about it for a moment: we may originally have given America its language, but the flow of new words and slang is now all the other way. We can discuss in detail the latest Quentin Tarantino movie, but have no interest in the latest French smash (unless there's the prospect of some vigorous Galle humping). We're interested in Madonna, we all feel we know New York, we take an interest in American politics.

Britain's cultural subordination to America has long been recognised and in the past there was considerable resistance to the idea that we were becoming the 51st state. However given that one of the great themes of the new world order is that the nation state is as passé as sideburns or Dixon of Dock Green, it may be time to look at whether we should be looking West rather than East.

Despite the fact that it is hard to pinpoint one economic benefit Britain has secured from being in Europe, the assumption is that there is no real alternative to the European Union. It may not be perfect, but Europe is only 20 miles away across the Channel and it's all there is.

This is a rather old-fashioned notion, reminiscent of the take-it-or-leave-it days before the triumph of consumer choice. There may be 3,000 miles of ocean separating us from the Eastern seaboard, but these days distance is supposed to be irrelevant. All the gurus tell us that we are now part of a global village in

which brain power is all that matters and the end of geography is nigh.

As such, it shouldn't matter whom we link up with, provided we link up with somebody. Its cheaper to fly to Miami than to Florence.

A more compelling argument would be that it is in Britain's interests to move away from an Anglo-Saxon model of capitalism towards a continental model. We should have nothing to do with the deregulated hire-and-fire culture of the Americans, but instead should copy the Rhenish model of stakeholder capitalism.

The problem is, however, that just as some of the Anglo-Saxons are waking up to the fact that labour market flexibility and downsizing may not be an economic panacea, all the nice Rhenish capitalists are embracing structural reform with all the zeal of converts.

What's more, in terms of dynamism, and being at the cutting edge of the sunrise industries — biotechnology, micro-processors, multi-media — the Americans are leaving the Europeans for dead. The firm-based industrial culture that is so prevalent in Europe is starting to look a bit tired, particularly when set against the vibrancy of the American small and medium-sized sector, where networking and rapid movement between firms has led to innovation and excitement.

There is a good macroeconomic reason for America's dynamism. The crisis for the US this century was the Great Depression, and ever since policy has been dominated by the fear of mass unemployment. For Germany, the key event was the hyperinflation of 1923, and the Bundesbank is still haunted by the image of people pushing wheelbarrows full of money through the streets.

In the 30 years after the war the triumph of the American way led to full employment and strong growth. The 20 years in which the Bundesbank has prevailed have seen jobs sacrificed on the altar of inflation.

Being part of a dollar zone would almost certainly be more expansionary than being part of a mark zone, particularly if it involved liberation from the Common Agricultural Policy. Access to cheap American food would bear down on prices, making it easier to hit the inflation target at higher levels of demand.

Any supporters of closer integration with the US could easily come up with their own three-point plan, modelled on the Delors blueprint for a single currency. The first

stage would be to apply for British membership of Nato to form a transatlantic free trade area.

An idea similar to this has already been floated by the Government, although at this stage its vision involves a link between the US and the EU. But the notion is obviously feasible and would give Britain's one truly world-class industry — pharmaceuticals — a head start in the lucrative American health care market. The inducement for the Americans would be that they would get reciprocal access to Britain's 58 million consumers.

The second stage would be to press for full monetary union, to allow the pound to be part of a dollar zone. This would give the pound protection from currency speculators and mean there would be no transaction costs — two of the main reasons advanced for supporting EMU. Selling this idea to the British public would no doubt be tricky, but no less difficult than marketing the Euro is going to be.

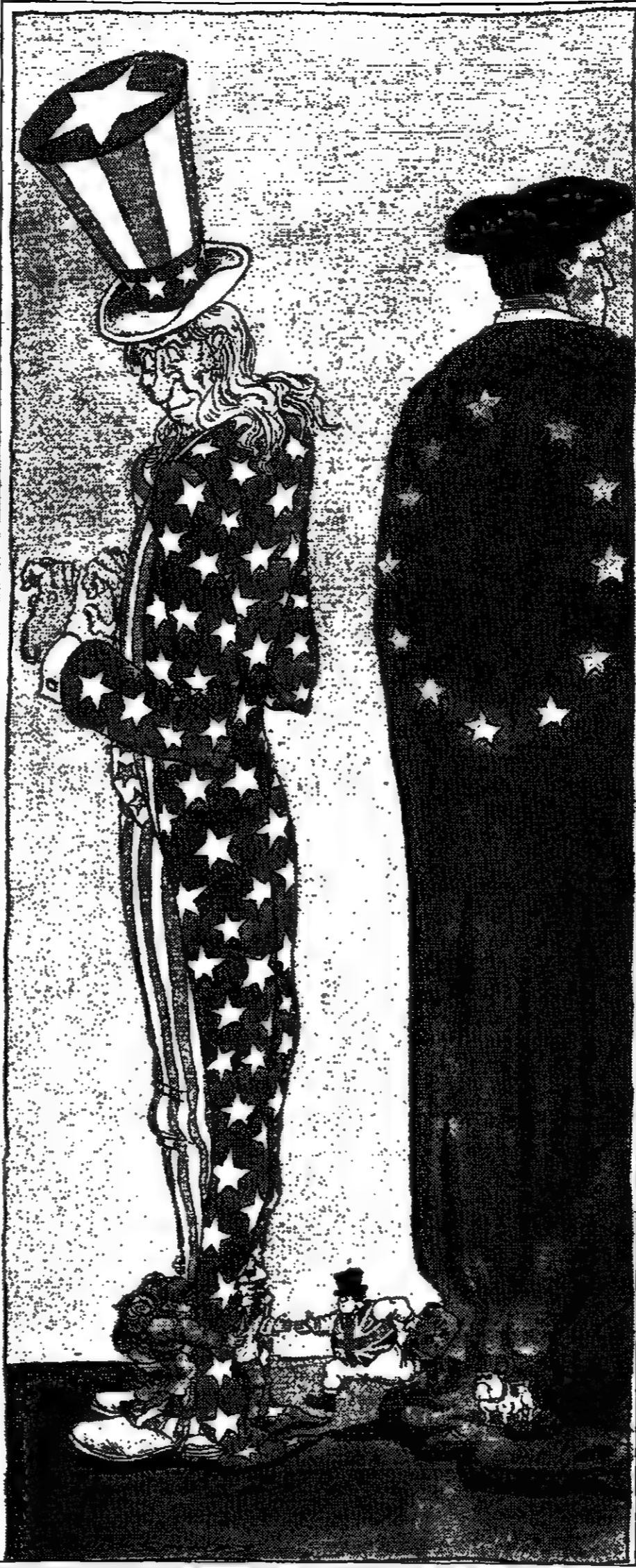
The third and final stage would be the full integration of Britain into America as the 51st state. Now, as the propagandists for a federal Europe have told us, this would have to happen for us to gain the full benefits of the monetary union project and any faint hearts and xenophobes would quickly see the folly of clinging on to outmoded views of national sovereignty.

In fact, Britain would really clean up. The UK would be the biggest state in the union and would have the most votes in a revamped electoral college. No president would be able to win without Britain on his side, so the scope for pork barrel politics would be enormous.

The more you think about it, the better it fits becomes. First, it keeps everybody satisfied — from the rabid free marketeers on the right to the bully-woolies on the left who were once accused by Orwell of secretly hating their own country and wanting to see it subsumed into a greater whole. The constitutional reformers get the separation of powers and a Bill of Rights, the military get a whole load of new toys to play with, and the rest of us can teach our new relatives how to play rounders properly.

Put simply, the three main obstacles in the way of making a single currency work are language, wage flexibility and a mechanism for fiscal transfers. These look insurmountable in a European context, far less problematical with a dollar link.

Of course, there are things we wouldn't want such as the death penalty, the wall-to-wall lawyers and the headliners. No problem. We could always negotiate a couple of opt-outs.



Defining right strategy for investment

DEBATE/Focus on causes not symptoms, says DAN CORRY

INVESTMENT is in danger of becoming a fetish for the left but this approach leads to lazy analysis. Instead of a strategy for making Britain more competitive, we get a mind-numbing mantra about the need to invest more.

Of course there is a problem. But investment is a symptom of what is going wrong in the British economy, not its cause.

Investment is an area where markets do not work well enough — even for New Labour. As Cairn Driver explains in the summer issue of *New Economy*, one firm's investment helps all the other firms too, as technology and knowledge spread and better supply becomes available.

This means that the amount of investment the market throws out will be lower than society needs and, if we just push up demand, assuming that this will lead to higher investment, we get inflation, causing even a nice Blairite government to put on the brakes well before any investment comes on stream to match new demand.

Michael Heseltine claims that, despite all this fine theory, we do not have too little investment. In the new, lean, deregulated Britain, we can produce the same output with less investment the fact that the UK ratio of investment to total output (at market prices) now stands at 15 per cent, its lowest point in the last 35 years, doesn't worry him.

Maybe we can now do more with less, but why are we so far out of line with other countries? Over the 1980s the UK ratio of 17.5 per cent was far below our European Union competitors at over 20 per cent, with Japan at 30 per cent. Even the free-market US, which we shadowed in earlier decades, was above us in the 1980s.

But these overall figures hide as much as they reveal. Analysis shows that the money going into public sector investment since 1980 has grown at just half the rate of the private sector and the answer to this crisis lies firmly with the Government.

Within the private sector, within particular problems in R&D and in manufacturing. Since 1980, investment in manufacturing grew in cash terms by 80 per cent, while in the financial and related sector it grew 250 per cent and now exceeds that in all manufacturing.

This might lead one to advocate policies geared to increasing investment only in manufacturing. However,

such "picking" of sectors is difficult and dangerous. There are, in any case, few problems specific only to manufacturing. It's just that it is affected more by the general causes of under-investment, being a sector where investment takes longer to pay back, technological change is rapid and skilled workers essential, international competition strong and the profitability of an investment can be wiped out in an instant by an exchange rate shift.

Policy should focus on the underlying problems. The key feature about investment is that you don't make a profit out of it quickly. Policy needs to enhance incentives to behave in long-term ways.

Government must do what it can to create a stable economic environment and reduce uncertainty, the death-knell of investment. It should avoid sharp changes of fiscal and monetary policy; macroeconomic stability is the key. This exists to some degree now, with low inflation and an economy four years into the "recovery", yet despite this, plus high profits and growing signs of capacity constraints, British industry is still not investing. This suggests that stability for a prolonged period and steadily growing demand is needed.

Other ways that government affects business conditions — like systems of tax and regulation — need stability, so firms can plan ahead. Our system of utility regulation, where an individual can turn everything upside down at any time, is not conducive to a long-term perspective.

We need to tackle the worst excesses of short-termism — created by the financial sector and by inappropriate incentive structures for company bosses — by making takeover activity harder and tilting the tax system towards those who don't sell their shares at the slightest rumour of a difficulty.

Micro-level policy can alter incentives in a helpful way and can be rather more targeted. Tax breaks, pump priming initiatives and activity at regional level should be used. Such changes would help alter the investment climate but we must be careful that they are useful for the problem areas, like R&D and manufacturing, and that investment for unhelpful downsizing is discouraged.

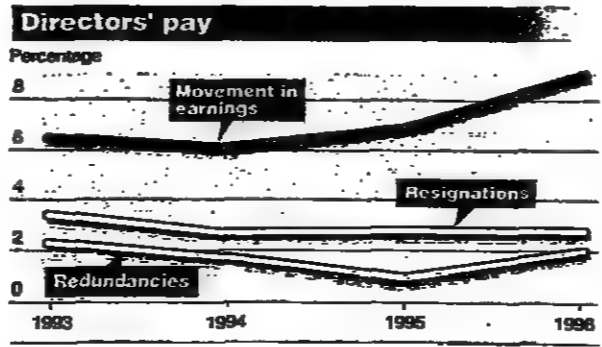
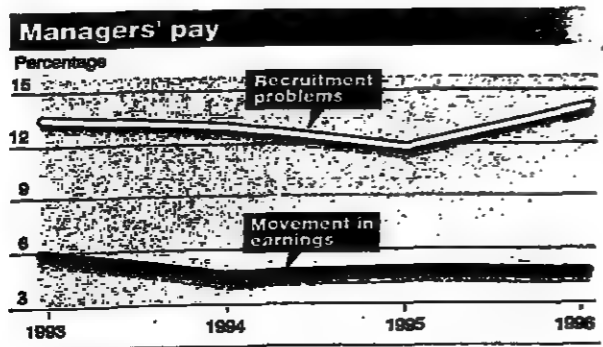
Turning the UK into a high investment economy is going to be a long haul but one that needs to be embarked on. Dan Corry is the Editor of *New Economy*.

Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 1,6590	France 7,7025	Italy 2,333	Singapore 2,11
Austria 16,06	Germany 2,2925	Malta 0,5440	South Africa 8,50
Belgium 46,85	Greece 364,40	Netherlands 2,5575	Spain 192,40
Canada 2,0525	Hong Kong 11,56	New Zealand 2,1925	Sweden 1,8675
Cyprus 0,7025	India 63,77	Norway 9,81	Switzerland 1,8675
Denmark 8,86	Ireland 0,9450	Portugal 236,25	Turkey 114,927
Finland 7,20	Israel 5,07	Saudi Arabia 5,72	USA 1,4975

Supplied by NatWest Bank including Indian rupee and Israeli sheqel at 21:00 on Friday

Chase for chiefs gaining pace



BRIEFING/Are bosses in short supply? SARAH RYLE continues series on top pay

PAY is supposedly set to reflect individuals' contributions to a company. Judging by the findings of the Guardian's top pay survey, which showed directors' wages grew last year by 19 per cent, that is a lot of value.

Another economic theory is that the wage increase indicates a decline in the supply of managers with chief executive potential. David Rhoads,

of the consultancy firm SCA, says it has become more difficult to find people who can lead top companies, especially through minefields like downsizing (sacking people). "Companies can take months to find chief executives. Recruitment firms would not be as successful as they are if it was as easy as putting an ad in the paper."

That does not, however, explain the leaps in earnings enjoyed by the likes of Cedric Brown, former chief executive of British Gas, when utilities were privatised.

Mr Brown was more the product of the natural selection that happens within companies, according to Brian Main, professor of economics at Edinburgh University. Over time one senior director becomes the obvious choice for the top job, and later his or her successor is selected in the same way.

One justification for the inflation of utility bosses' pay was that the companies they had become international players and their leaders faced increased responsibilities. Another argument, that as leaders of large listed companies they were open to poaching and therefore had to be paid at international levels, was not so strong.

Professor Main says: "It's a very suspect argument, especially in the case of somebody like Cedric Brown, whose skills are very country specific." But he says there is a race among the top 500 companies to get the "very, very best" people with leadership ability.

The issue is one of a perceived shortage of candidates with the right skills. There is evidence of a link between supply and wage levels for the lower management echelons. The latest Institute of Management survey contains a proxy for supply in the form of recruitment difficulties. But the expected link between supply and wage levels did not hold. Pay movements did relate to the difficulty firms found in keeping valued staff.

At director level, however, there was no such simple correlation. The nearest was resignations and redundancies. Resignations fell in 1993 and 1994, which could suggest supply was rising. Wage rises

Ready to lower the boom

WORM'S EYE/Gain has arrived so prepare for pain, an insider tells DAN ATKINSON

ALARMED, baffled or just plain disbelieving after last week's go-go economic data? Unsure as to whether the surge in consumer credit and house prices is for real? Here, exclusively, a Treasury spokesman answers the questions that you, the people, are asking.

Q: Are last week's figures significant or not?
A: Very significant. They show, at last, that ordinary people, the chap in the street, are beginning to feel the benefits of recovery.

Q: There were those borrowing figures...
A: Tremendous figures. Borrowing on that scale says one thing and one thing only — faith in the future. Confidence.

Q: And house prices?
A: Speak for themselves. Buoyancy, jauntiness, a certain bullishness: that is the message of the house-price rises.

Indicators

- TODAY — Q&E: Industrial Production (Apr), Q&E: Manufacturing Orders (Apr), Q&E: Unemployment (May), Q&E: Visible Trade (May), Q&E: Current Account (May), Q&E: Purchasing Manager's Report (May), Q&E: Provisional M0 (May), Q&E: Leading Indicators (Apr), Q&E: NAPM (May)
- TOMORROW — UK: Official Reserves (May), Q&E: GDP (Q1)
- WEDNESDAY — UK: Chancellor's Government Meeting
- THURSDAY — UK: CBI Distributive Trades Survey (May)
- FRIDAY — JPM: Tankan Business Survey, US: Unemployment Rate (May), US: Consumer Credit (May)

Source: HSBC Globalnet

Racing

Illness scare and narrow defeat in French Derby on day of high drama for trainer Chapple-Hyam. Chris Hawkins reports

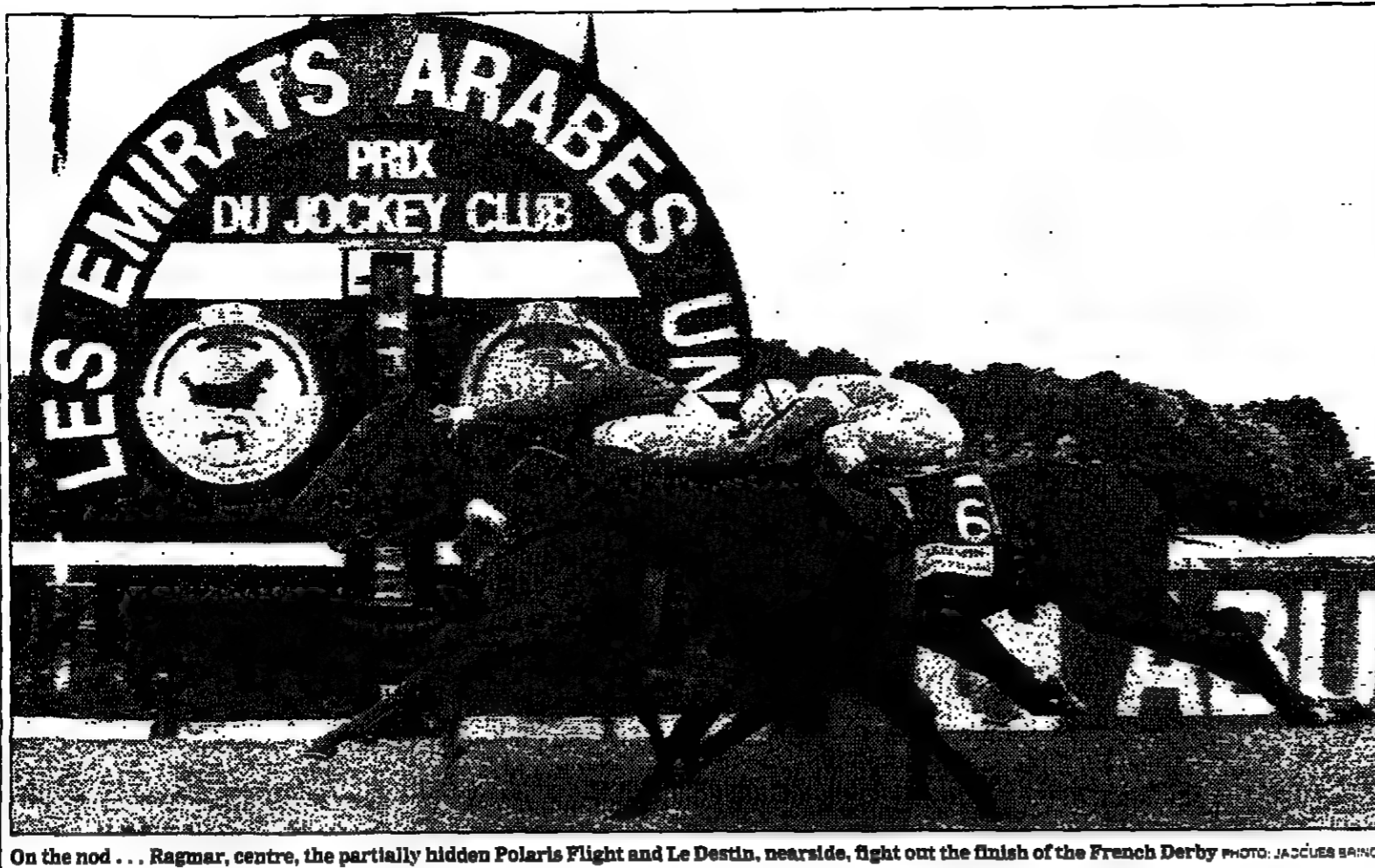
Flight grounded as Ragmar holds on

POLARIS Flight came within a short-head of winning the French Derby on Saturday as the homebred Ragmar held on in a desperate three-way photo-finish.

There is no doubt Ragmar did swerve left across Polaris Flight a furlong and a half out, but he was over a length clear at the time and Kinane did not have to stop riding.

Chapple-Hyam, 33, was admitted to hospital last month after a stress-related problem and was told to diet and cut out smoking.

Emerging after the big race wearing dark glasses, Chapple-Hyam said: "I was able to watch the race and I feel OK. I saw it on television from my bed and it seems that we were unlucky, but that's the way it goes."



On the nod... Ragmar, centre, the partially hidden Polaris Flight and Le Destin, nearside, fight out the finish of the French Derby. PHOTO: JACQUES BARNON

Polaris Flight and Ragmar met last October in the Critérium de Saint-Cloud when again there was only a short-head in it — the verdict then going the other way — so amazingly the colts reproduced the form almost to the ounce.

Amazing because this was a rough race and both Kinane and Mosses had difficulty in steering clear of trouble. "I got pretty physical," explained Kinane. "The plan was to be in mid-field but I had to drop back and come towards the outside."

For Mosses this was a second Classic triumph of the season, following his victory last month in the French 2,000 Guinees on Ashkanani, and a second French Derby after his success two years ago on Celtic Arms — trained, like Ragmar, by Pascal Bary.

High Baroque, winner of the Chester Vase from St Mawes, ran well on ground thought to be faster than he likes and faded to finish ninth after leading in with a short two furlongs out.

There is little doubt Polaris Flight improved significantly at this his first attempt at a mile and a half, although Chapple-Hyam was toying earlier in the week with running him in the Prix Jean-Frédéric over nine furlongs on this card.

Regal Archive represented the stable instead but made no impression and finished fifth of six behind Le Triton. Frankie Dettori had no joy on Don Michele but won the concluding Prix de Sandringham for Crickets Head on Sanson.

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Massini shines to give Stoute double delight

After a series of searching work-outs on the Newmarket gallops at the weekend, Derby betting took on a new look with Michael Stoute's pair Dr Massini and Double Leaf the best-backed horses for Saturday's Vodafone-sponsored Classic.

Dr Massini has been promoted to clear 4-1 favourite for Epsom with Ladbrokes after reportedly pleasing in his work with the stable's smart older horse, Desert Shor.

Hill's bracket Dr Massini the 9-2 joint favourite, from 5-1 with Glory Of Dancer, and they cut Double Leaf to 14-1 on the basis of his good home work since finishing fifth in the Dante Stakes.

Shaamit has been all the rage with Ladbrokes after his "defeat" of Glory Of Dancer in a gallop on Saturday. The first have cut his odds from 15-1 to 10-1.

But Shaamit's trainer William Haggas refused to get carried away. "He worked all right and I am satisfied, but he went no different to how he has for the past six weeks — he is a genuine horse who works well," he said.

Shaamit, who will be ridden by Michael Hills at Epsom, has not run since he landed a maiden race at Doncaster last November. But Haggas said: "He will definitely be fit enough. We just need some luck in running."

Glory Of Dancer was pushed out from 5-1 to 6-1 by Ladbrokes but his trainer Paul Kelleway was far from upset with the Dante winner's work.

"I am not worried at all," he said. "You don't want to leave the race on the gallops."

Dushyantor eased half a point to 5-1 with Hill's after he had to be bused along by Pat Eddery to finish ahead of two stable companions on the Lamekins gallop on Saturday morning.

Storm Trooper looked more impressive in his work but Dushyantor's effort gave no quality to trainer Henry Cecil, who said: "They are both fine — Dushyantor is always a lazy worker."

Cecil has not looked for a jockey for his third Derby entry, Clever Cliche. "If the ground is fast he won't run so we haven't even thought about booking a rider for him," he explained.

Cash Amussen will team up again with Barry Hills on Saturday. The American, who rode Blue Stag to finish second in the 1990 Derby for Hills, has been booked to ride Busy Flight.

Mark Birch will make his debut in the race at the age of 46. He has been booked to partner outsider Spartan Heartbeat by Clive Brittain, who gave him his only other Classic ride on St Leger fourth Tertrun in 1998.

British also includes running Acharne (Warren O'Connor) in the Derby but no decision has been made about the participation of Amfortas.

Cigar had little difficulty in notching his 15th straight win as he comfortably repeated last year's success in the \$250,000 Massachusetts Handicap at Suffolk Downs on Saturday night.

This took Cigar's career earnings to \$8,068,815 and moved him within one race of equalling Citation's American record of 18 straight victories. His next target is the Hollywood Gold Cup on June 30.

Leicester card with form guide

Table of Leicester racing card with form guide, listing race numbers, names, and details.

Windsor tonight

Table of Windsor racing card for tonight, listing race numbers, names, and details.

Thirsk tonight

Table of Thirsk racing card for tonight, listing race numbers, names, and details.

Hamilton

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McCoy's champion season

TONY McCoy, who only lost his right to claim in February last year, is the new champion jockey at the age of just 22. The Irishman's total of 175 winners was 43 more than runner-up David Brigwater.

McCoy's successor as champion conditional jockey is Richard Johnson, who rode 53 winners, and leading amateur rider — by a long way — is Jim Callaghan, whose total of 40 winners was the most in a season by a member of the paid ranks since Richard Smith's 56 winners in 1973.

Martin Pipe took the trainers' title for the sixth time and became only the third trainer to land 2,000 winners over jumps when Robert's Toy scored at Hereford.

Guardian top

Guardian top

Guardian top

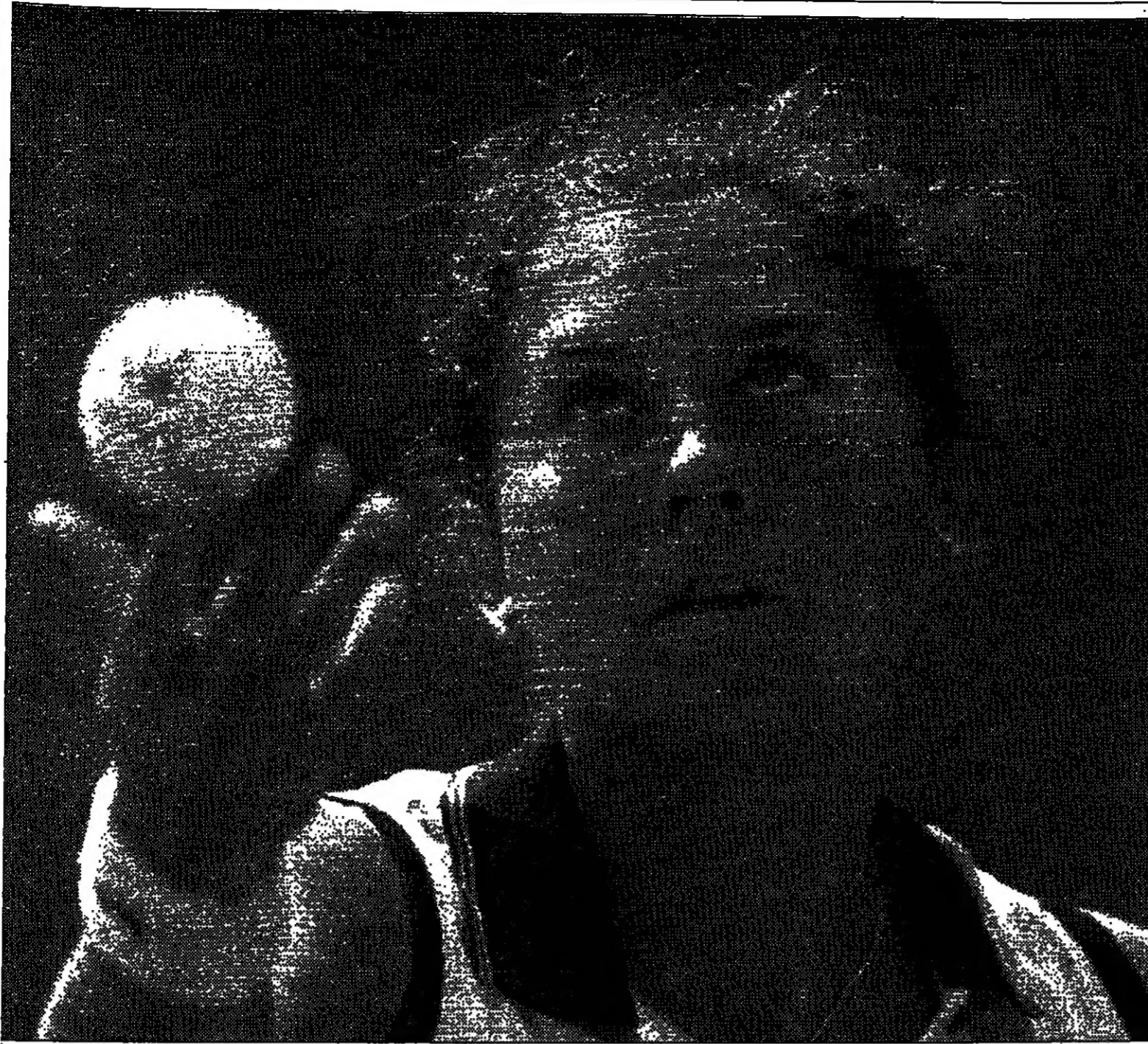
Guardian top

Large advertisement for RACELINE featuring Leicester Hamilton Thirsk Windsor racing results and commentary. Includes a table of results and a 'Guardian top' section.

1550 مينو حويل



Maleeva... swept aside



Upwardly mobile... Monica Seles marched into the quarter-finals of the French Open with an impressive 6-1, 6-1 victory over Magdalena Maleeva

Stephen Bierley on a Sunday the adopted American will be glad to put behind her

Seles banishes Hamburg ghost

THERE was an understandable element of torment about Monica Seles's match with Magdalena Maleeva in Paris yesterday, although in the end it was perhaps a kind of release. The two players had last met on a singles court in 1993, the April day in Hamburg when Gunter Parche stabbed Seles in the back while she was changing ends. Coming face to face at Roland Garros inevitably stirred memories of that dreadful incident, with Seles admitting that sitting down with her back to the mass ranks of spectators on the Court Centrale, and with Maleeva at her side again, had been "really tough". All the show courts throughout the world hinders now, and not just for Seles. The stabbing changed

everyone's perceptions of safety and security. "I said to myself, 'Just keep going and not think about it,'" said Seles yesterday after her 6-1, 6-1 win over the Bulgarian. "I told myself it's just another tennis match." Maleeva, the No. 13 seed, was asked if the memories of the incident had any effect on her. "No, that didn't bother me at all," she said, adding, with the broadest of smiles, "Neither did it bother her." Not, certainly, in terms of the way Seles played. There was power in her serve and she snapped into her ground shots without inhibition. A daily routine of ice and heat treatment, combined with stretching and massage, appears to be having a highly beneficial effect on her shoulder injury. More than anything else her confidence has been restored.

Seles said she had not slept particularly well on Saturday night and that she had been nervous during practice before the match. "It definitely helped when I broke Maggie. I just told myself to keep moving. I was really proud that I did that." Those who know Seles well confirmed that her timing was indeed back. This has nothing to do with her hitting of the little yellow balls, but her ability to start answering questions virtually before the questioner has finished. "Oh boy," she says, and is off and running on any subject from the Pierce dress to her ambitions outside tennis — which, incidentally, include sky-diving. Expect the Nike ad to be a garrulous flying angel any day. She will next meet Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic in the quarter-finals. Novotna

having beaten the Romanian Irina Spirlea 6-1, 7-5. Steffi Graf, seeded and ranked joint No. 1 with Seles, had rattled off 14 straight wins over Mary Joe Fernandez of the United States, so that to find her 4-0 down in the second-set tie-break was, to say the least, a touch surprising. Normal service was quickly resumed. Graf winning this rain-interrupted match 6-1, 7-6. Her quarter-final opponent will be the 18-year-old Croatian, Iva Majoli, who beat the Spanish qualifier Gala Leon Garcia 6-3, 6-1. Garcia, after a third-round win, had described her Paris programme as "Party, party, fiesta, fiesta". Yesterday she failed to wake up. In the top half of the men's draw there were routine wins for Richard Krajicek of Holland, Russia's Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Jim Courier and Pete Sampras. Kafelnikov, who beat Andre Agassi here last year, has not dropped a set so far, yesterday hustling away Spain's Francisco Clavet 6-1, 6-3, 6-3. He next plays Krajicek, who before Roland Garros reached the final of the Italian Open, losing to Austria's Thomas Muster, who continues his defence of this title today against Germany's Michael Stich. Courier, who unlike Seles is apt to answer questions with a brevity bordering on the curt, was in sunny mood after his win over South Africa's Wayne Ferreira, notably on the subject of his cap — sometimes worn, sometimes not. "I have a great new haircut. I want all the chicks to see my head, but don't quote me on that. My girlfriend will kill me."

Of marginally more interest is whether Sampras will kill Courier in the quarter-finals. Courier has won the French Open twice, in 1991 and 1992, and beat Sampras at the quarter-final stage two years ago, ending his fellow American's hopes of four consecutive Grand Slam titles. After two energy-sapping five-set matches Sampras had the luxury of a relatively soft 6-4, 7-5, 6-2 win over Australia's Scott Draper. Saturday will be remembered for Stefan Edberg's wonderful victory over the No. 51 seed Michael Chang. A combination of brilliant play and Chang's long-term rib injury saw the 30-year-old Edberg soft-shoe shuffle his elegant way to a stunning 4-6, 7-5, 6-0, 7-6 victory. Paris can barely wait for his match today against Switzerland's Marc Rosset. *Allez Stefan.*

Rugby League

Super League

St Helens 52, Paris St Germain 10

Goolding blow fails to check rampant Saints

Paul Fitzpatrick

BOBBIE GOULDING, the great motivating force behind St Helens' spectacularly successful season so far, was missing from the game with Paris St Germain yesterday after fracturing his collar-bone in the final tackle of the match against Castleford last Monday. He may be out for three weeks, but Saints will feel less bad about that after the performance given at Knowsley Road by his replacement, Tommy Martyn. Saints took Martyn off in the 88th minute but by then he had inflicted irreversible damage on Paris. Two beautiful kicks in the first half brought tries for Prescott and Arnold, and Martyn was the man responsible for his team's first two tries of the second half. St Helens, who reclaimed the top place in the table, briefly occupied by Wigan after their win at Leeds on Saturday, were 18 points in credit after only 24 minutes and were looking capable of scoring with every move. Paris did well to contain them on an 18-4 interval lead, the French coming back into the game late in the half with a try from the winger Cervello. It had begun to look ominous for Paris after only three minutes. A flowing move by Martyn, Hammond, Prescott and Perrelli ended with the Australian forward McVey bursting over from close range. Prescott failed to add the goal, but quickly made amends by scoring Saints' second try eight minutes later. The score was the product of a clever reverse-kick by Martyn, but Paris were not helped by injury. Vitoikamaru and Torrelles were both lying in pain on the turf as Prescott went over the line. Martyn produced an even

clever kick for Saints' next try. After breaking down the middle, the scrum-half realised the possibilities on the right and found Arnold with a kick of perfect weight and direction. The young winger had to do no more than pick up the ball and trot over for his 19th league and cup try. Paris appeared to have no game plan. But Smith threw out a long ball to the wing, it caught the Saints' defence exposed on the fringes, and Cervello had enough space to make the most of his chance. Torrelles was unable to add the goal points but Paris had received the lift they badly needed. They scored another two points soon after the interval; Hunte seemed harshly treated when he was sent to the sin-bin, apparently for deliberate offside, but Torrelles landed the two points. Here was a chance for Paris to take advantage of their superior numbers. But by the time Hunte came back from the sin-bin his side had advanced by another 12 points. First Yaha, behind his own line, split a high kick and Matautia touched down, then Martyn's quick hands sent in Newlove under the post. Martyn improved both scores and St Helens were firmly back in control. Haigh scored a try in the 58th minute; Joynt got another, the result of running a penalty when Cabestany was in the sin-bin; and Newlove and McVey both got their second touchdowns. But at least Paris got into double figures when Bonati, one of the real talents in the French side, scored in the corner.

St Helens: Prescott, Arnold, Hunte, Perrelli, Cunningham, Fitzpatrick, Booth, McVey, Joynt, Substitutes: Haigh, Vitoikamaru, Torrelles, Cervello, Yaha, Matautia, Cabestany, Bonati, Newlove, Smith, Hammond, Martyn, Luchessa, Laha, Curries, Newlove & Connolly, Wigan

Ekoku in Halifax rebuilding society

HALIFAX recorded their first Super League victory at Thrum Hall with a 29-30 Yorkshire derby win over Sheffield Eagles, who initially threatened to run away with the match. Sheffield's French wing Jean Marc Garcia scored two tries in the first 13 minutes and Mark Aston kicked two goals as Halifax barely ventured into the Eagles' half. But they clawed their way back, with the young scrum-half Danny Seal, making his full debut, and the hooker Paul Rowley concocting a move which opened a gap for the loose forward Simon Baldwin to gallop through, and four minutes later he scampered over in the corner. Only four points separated the sides at half-time, after a try by the Eagles full-back Waisale Sovatava was countered by Seal's plunge under the posts on the booter. Halifax moved six points clear within eight minutes of the resumption. A break in the 44th minute by John Schuster, who also kicked four goals, allowed Mark Perrett to go over, and this was quickly followed by a further

Perrett try, set up by Schuster and Mike Umaga. The Eagles hit back to level when Aston's awkward grubber-kick under the posts was touched down by his half-back partner Matt Crowther. A Schuster penalty on the hour put the Blue Sox ahead once more, before more industrious work by Gillespie and a quick pass from Graham Hallias gave the much-maligned wing Abi Ekoku his first Thrum Hall try of the summer. Crowther did run in his second try for Sheffield, following up his own kick, but it was not enough, and Rowley dropped a last-minute goal for Halifax for good measure. London came out on top in another close affair when they scored a 28-20 win over Oldham. With each club scoring four tries, Barwick's five goals with one from Matherston proved decisive. Matt Calland scored two of Bradford's 10 tries as they overwhelmed the bottom club Workington 52-4 at Odsal. Bradford's fifth successive win saw them reclaim third place from Warrington.

Crumb of comfort for Leeds

LEEDS possibly gained more encouragement from their 40-20 home defeat by Wigan on Saturday than from any of their previous nine Super League games this season, writes Paul Fitzpatrick. Some familiar weaknesses were evident by the end but lack of spirit was not one of them, and their first-half performance showed that all is by no means lost for their coach Dean Bell. They were only two points adrift at the interval, but lost their attacking enterprise and defensive security in the second half. Their teenage hooker Terry Newton, signed from under Warrington's noses, had an outstanding game but was not the only youngster to shine. Wigan too have some marvellous

talents emerging in Rob Smith, Craig Murdoch and Andy Johnson. Smith scored two of Wigan's six tries to maintain his position as the club's leading Super League try scorer with 11, and Andy Farrell landed eight goals. Leeds, for whom Holroyd scored two touchdowns, reach next week's halfway stage of the season in serious trouble but a continuation of this form should improve things. Wigan's captain Shaun Edwards has been called into England's squad for the European Championship. He replaces Bobbie Goolding, who has a fractured collar-bone. The first game is against France at Gateshead on Wednesday week.

Free watersports tuition

If you ever wanted to learn to waterski, windsurf or sail, Mark Warner holidays are offering the perfect opportunity. Every Mark Warner Beach Club offers free watersports tuition from expert instructors, and unlimited free use of equipment. Absolute beginners, novices and those of recreational standard are all well catered for on the waterfront, and

you'll also find yourself well catered for in the restaurant with 3 meals a day and complimentary wine all included in the price tag. Best of all you can currently make a splash for less in Mark Warner Beach Clubs in Corsica, Turkey, Greece, Italy and Sardinia. Prices start from £395. Call Mark Warner holidays on 0171 353 1131 for details.

Rowing

Porter carries off the prize

Christopher Dodd in Lucerne
DEREK PORTER, a Belfast-born Canadian, defeated four of last year's world championship finalists for the Rotsee sculling title here yesterday, whereas Britain's three Olympic crews all finished last in their finals. Porter, the world champion in 1993, took the honours after a very close finish involving the world champion Iztok Kop of Slovenia and Germany's Olympic champion Thomas Lange. In the coxless fours Rupert Obholzer, Greg and Jonny Searle and Tim Foster, having dropped a hint of their latent incandescence in Saturday's semi-final involving the world champions Italy and the Olympic champions Australia, were fourth after 500 metres and eventually finished sixth, more than seven seconds behind the Italians. The crew, who won bronze in 1994 and silver last year, have been in full-time training since Christmas in preparation for the Olympics. "When we settled into our race the other crews were going quicker and that was very worrying," said Jonny Searle.

American Football

Monarchs get burned by the Dragons

Mike Carlson
THE prospect of a London 17 Scotland World Bowl receded yesterday as the Barcelona Dragons edged the Monarchs 7-6 in the rain at the Montjuic stadium. The Monarchs took a first-quarter lead of 6-0 through two Ruzek field goals but the Dragons responded as Holcomb scrambled twice for first downs and hit Browning for a five-yard touchdown, which Sereedy converted. Barcelona join Amsterdam and Frankfurt with 4-4 records in the chase to face Scotland in the World Bowl Championship. On Saturday the Amsterdam Admirals scored with only three minutes remaining to beat the Scottish Claymores 31-27. The Claymores had allowed Amsterdam to take a 10-0 lead during a woeful first half but fought back with three touchdowns in 10 minutes to take a 21-10 lead. Furrer then connected with Bobo on a 40-yard score for Admirals, but Ballard and La Chapelle replied with one of 32 yards. But Furrer again found Bobo to bring Amsterdam within three points, and Furrer ran 46 yards down the sideline for the winning score.

Sailing

Cayard begins cup campaign

San Francisco sets its sights on 2000. Bob Fisher reports
PAUL CAYARD, who has twice been on the losing boat in America's Cup finals, has announced his campaign plans for a challenge for the trophy by the St Francis Yacht Club in New Zealand in 2000. Speaking at the club at the weekend, Cayard was surrounded by his supporters and key staff members of AmericaOne, the team with which he will attempt to wrest the cup back from New Zealand and bring it to San Francisco Bay. His announcement had all the trappings of American hype; the United States Senator Quentin Cobb led the support for the challenge, and Angela Alioto, a member of the Board of Supervisors of San Francisco, declared that Cayard would be a "modern-day St Francis of Assisi for our government by making a significant contribution to the stability of our financial house" if he proved to be successful. The team that Cayard has assembled is impressive and carefully chosen. The fund-

Larson gives champion a starting lesson

Bob Fisher in San Francisco
THE world champion Ed Baird is 2-0 down and in danger of being overwhelmed here in the Brut Cup by his fellow American Morgan Larson, ranked No. 51 but already dubbed "the young pretender". Larson, a Californian who climbed quickly through the world rankings last year, needs only one more win in their best-of-five semi-final series to go one stage further than he did in this event last year. In the first race, said Baird, "five seconds went in a vacuum in my mind"; he was almost that far behind when the starting-gun fired, and once ahead Larson increased his lead. In the second race "those five seconds came back out of the vacuum," said Baird; the world No. 1 was over the start-line early and had to return as Larson took a comfortable lead of eight lengths, a distance Baird could not close. Paul Cayard of the US and New Zealand's Russell Coutts are contesting the other semi-final. In this echo of the America's Cup challenge, Coutts won the first race after Cayard was over the start-line early. The lead changed twice in the next before Cayard won, and although Coutts won the third by a whisker he was penalised in the fourth by the on-the-water umpire as Cayard passed him at the leeward mark to level the scores once again. Cayard had defeated John Cutler 3-1 in the quarter-finals, and Coutts beat Australia's Peter Gilmour 3-2. Larson swamped Jeff Madrigall of the US 3-0 and Baird defeated Peter Hohnberg of the US Virgin Islands 3-1. Britain's Chris Law failed to reach the quarter-finals.

His concerns were broader: comic staples such as British Rail and motorway service stations, but also the environment, sexism, racism... It wasn't long before the description he said he didn't want to earn — "smug git in a shiny suit" — stuck. Ben Elton profiled by Dan Glalster

Soccer

International: Republic of Ireland 2, Croatia 2

Quinn's late strike foils Croatia

Michael Walker in Dublin

THERE have been times in the past...

But yesterday against Croatia...

The relief was huge. Not only had the Republic...

Playing only his second international...

The Irish deserved their goals and probably the draw...

Both will have left encouraged; McCarthy certainly was...

The Croatians fielded nine of the side that had begun against England...

However, any disappointment his non-appearance caused...



Irish check-up... Quinn looks on in anticipation as McLoughlin shrugs off the challenge of Asanovic yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENCE GRIFFITHS

ished bottom of Serie A in Italy...

It was Vlaovic, accompanied by Boban...

but Given parried the side-foot shot away for a corner...

Suker could have had a first-half hat-trick but Given...

felt the need to move forward their change from possession play...

Yet at the back Billie Jerkan and Stimac all looked puzzled...

vic later referred to Quinn as a world-class header of the ball...

It is not so often that anyone comes across such a player as Boban...

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND: Glenn (Blackburn Rovers), Cunningham (Wimbledon), Sheen (Chelsea), Egan (Covington City), Ryan (Birmingham City), Keane (Blackburn Rovers), O'Brien (Farnborough), McGeaney (Preston), O'Connell (Blackburn Rovers), O'Neill (Norwich)

CROATIA: Mrazic (Vartek), Stanic (Brugge), Jural (Real Betis), Stamen (Derby County), Juric (Ipswich), Dacic (West Ham), Vlaovic (Liverpool), Boban (AC Milan), Asanovic (Derby County), Bekic (Leicester), Suker (Real Madrid)

Euro 96 claims sale of tickets is 'phenomenal'

EURO 96 is almost a total sell-out, with fewer than 150,000 of the 1.4 million tickets still to be sold...

However, only nine of the 31 matches are sold out, including all three of England's Group A matches...

Kirton was upset in the run-up to the first game, England v Switzerland at Wembley on Saturday...

Disappointingly for Scotland...

land, also in England's group, there are still tickets unsold for their games at Villa Park against Holland...

Andrew Walpole, a Euro 96 spokesman, said: "Scotland were originally allocated 7,000 tickets for both games...

Matthäus, who blames Klinsmann for his exclusion from Germany's Euro 96 squad...

Matthäus's latest outburst is certain to infuriate Vogts...

Neil Robinson says Germany are in even greater turmoil than England going into Euro 96

Matthäus fuels Klinsmann row

THE extraordinary row between three of German football's most prominent personalities erupted fresh yesterday...

Matthäus, who blames Klinsmann for his exclusion from Germany's Euro 96 squad...

Matthäus's latest outburst is certain to infuriate Vogts...

who reacted to his previous sniping by banning him from the national team for good...

Asked if this was a sign that diplomacy was becoming more important in professional soccer...

Asked if Klinsmann might move to another club, he said: "It's conceivable, although he still has a two-year contract..."

Matthäus, who has challenged his team-mate to a live television debate to resolve the row...

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World Cup qualifier

San Marino 0, Wales 5

Hughes double helps get Wales off the mark

Trevor Haylett in San Marino

IF ONLY international football was always as easy for Wales. The team that managed to lose to Moldova and Georgia in a humbling series of poor results in recent seasons...

The Welsh came down from the mountain top that doubles as an independent state having filled their scoring boots in impressive fashion...

The greatest Welsh away win for 81 years began with Andy Melville's first international score. They only needed to be running on half steam to see off the part-timers but the endeavour and commitment shown at the tail-end of an arduous season will have pleased Gould...

Hughes had a hand in the first goal, taking Robinson's floated cross on his chest before launching a fierce shot. The goalkeeper managed to beat the ball away but Melville was on the scene to good effect...

settled and with the San-marinese fragile hopes further diluted, it was now a question of how many, although the rules of the competition make the goals tally against the weaker group nation an irrelevancy...

A Pembroke corner on 32 minutes evaded Coleman's leap but fell to Hughes whose technique, as usual, was impeccable. The right-foot volley tore through Muccioli's defences...

The hat-trick Hughes was searching for was thwarted by a fine save early in the second half. A shade more inevitable, perhaps, was a booking for Mr Aggressor for kicking the ball away in defence...

Ryan Giggs had been unable to make anything count despite a number of mesmeric runs in which a succession of defenders suffered from his skill and blinding pace. It was to the beat-up Gould, who can look forward to the home return with these opponents before embarking on the real tests in Group Seven: Holland, Belgium and Turkey...

Five minutes from time the Welsh win was complete when Pembroke rammed home Giggs's low cross from the right.

SAN MARINO: Napolitano, Gasparoni, Geronzi, M. Valentini, Gelsi, Geronzi, Mucciolli, Paoletti (M. Mucciolli), Tomasi, M. Valentini, V. Valentini, S. Montagna. WALES: Southall (Everton), Bowen (Norwich), Bellis (Sunderland), Coleman (Blackburn), Pembroke (Sheff Wednesd), Horne (Ipswich), Gwynne, Crane, H., Bromby (Ipswich), Ryan, Goss, Norwich, T.H. Robinson (Charlton), Legg, Birmingham, P., Hughes, Charlton, Saunders (Salisbury), Giggs (Man United), Walters, M. Lucas (Slovakia)

Victories for fringe four

FOUR of the outsiders for Euro 96 completed their tournament preparations with victories yesterday.

Russia extended their unbeaten run to 17 games with an efficient 2-0 victory over Poland in Moscow; the goals came from Yuri Kovtun and Vladimir Beschastnykh. And in Copenhagen Thomas Helveg helped Denmark see off Ghana 1-0.

Bulgaria's ageing team proved too strong for the United Arab Emirates in Sofia, where Hristo Stoichkov hit his first goal in 61 international in the 4-1 victory. Ivailo Jordanov opened Bulgaria's scoring and Georgi Donkov and Nasko Sirakov completed the haul.

Turkey, about to make their first appearance in a major competition since 1954, edged past Finland's part-timers 3-1 in Helsinki after conceding an early goal. Tugay Karimoglu and Saffet Sancakli scored for the visitors.

Italy were equally unimpressive on Saturday when they beat Hungary 2-0 in Budapest. Lazio's Pierluigi Casiraghi struck first on seven minutes and later provided the cross from which Hungary's captain Janos Banfi turned past his own keeper.

But although the Italians controlled the midfield, their new-look back four appeared uncomfortable and Hungary looked more dangerous than in their recent 3-0 defeat by England.

Sepp Blatter yesterday denied that Fifa had set a precedent by awarding the 2002 World Cup jointly to Japan and South Korea, and said that in future only one country per continent should put its name forward. "That way the competition will not become so wound up as it has been between Japan and South Korea," he said.

Asked by a Swiss journalist if this meant the 2002 joint finals would be an exception and that Switzerland, for example, had no hope of co-hosting a World Cup with Austria, he replied: "Correct."

Blatter, a Swiss national, added: "A World Cup is unrealistic anywhere for our small country with its catastrophic stadiums."

Blatter confirmed that Fifa's president Joao Havelange had opposed the idea of co-hosting the 2002 finals, but said: "I persuaded him to the contrary in a personal conversation on Thursday."

Advertisement for Energize Haliborange Active Glucose Plus Multivitamin Tablets. Text includes: 'SEVEN SEAS Health Care', 'Energize', 'Haliborange Active Glucose Plus Multivitamin Tablets', 'New, deliciously crunchy, orange-flavoured Haliborange Active glucose plus multivitamin tablets are ideal for everyone who takes fitness seriously. Glucose is especially important before or after exercise, replacing lost energy fast. With its unique combination of Glucose, plus vitamins A, B complex, C, D and E, Haliborange Active not only keeps up your energy levels, but helps maintain your health too.', 'FOR ALL GOOD SPORTS'.

Rugby Union

Wales face Campese test

David Plummer

DAVID CAMPESE's retirement was put on hold yesterday when the world record Test try-scorer was recalled as Australia made drastic alterations for Saturday's first Test against Wales.

The New South Wales wing, the scorer of 63 international tries, had threatened to hang up his flying boots if overlooked again; he missed out on the two Bledisloe Cup games against New Zealand last August. However, he will win his 50th cap on the less familiar left wing, allowing his NSW team-mate Alistair Murdoch a second cap on the right.

Australia kept faith with only six players from the previous Test - Matt Burke, Tim Horan, Joe Roff, Daniel Mann, John Eales and Ewen McKenzie - and two of those will be playing out of position. Roff, who scored four tries from the left wing in the Australian Capital Territory's 69-30 demolition of Wales in Canberra yesterday, switches to partner Horan in the centre in the absence through injury of Jason Little and Mann, a flank forward, plays at No.8. With Phil Kearns still out injured,

Eales will captain the side, which includes three new caps in the flanker Owen Finnegan, hooker Marco Caputo and prop Richard Harry.

Finnegan and Caputo made an impact for ACT in the recent Super 12 series and Wales too felt the force of their emergence; the tourists were taken apart in the second half, conceding 48 points without reply until their scrum-half Robert Howley crossed for his second try five minutes from time.

Although fielding their Test front five and first-choice half-backs, Wales had neither the forward power nor the defensive organisation to counter a rampant ACT side, who ran in 10 tries.

"We knew from the Super 12 competition what we were coming to and now we have experienced it first-hand," said Wales's tour manager Terry Cobner. "We learned a lot; that you cannot lose concentration or lose the ball and that if you miss tackles and make mistakes you are going to be punished severely."

Although nine points ahead after 34 minutes, Wales reached half-time 34-33 down. Their fly-half Neil Jenkins kicked two early penalties and the wing Simon Hill scooped for a try. The flanker

Steve Williams then cashed in at the back of a line-out before Howley rounded off a penetrating attack.

By the time Howley scored again and Jenkins converted, Wales, who had opened the tour with a 62-30 victory over lowly Western Australia, had been well and truly thrashed.

SOCCER: ACT: Try: For: A. Howard, Larkham, Gagan, Finnegan, Harry, Robinson, Geronzi, Knox, B. Pendergast, Pendergast, Walters, Tizzard, Horner, C. Hill, Williams, Conover, Jenkins 2, Geronzi, Jenkins 2.

AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY: S. Larkham, M. Harry, A. Magno, P. Howard, J. Roff, D. Knox, G. Rogerson, P. Horner, M. Caputo, E. McKenzie, J. Langford, D. Gray, J. Fomulu, B. Robinson (capt), O. Finnegan.

WALSLEY XV: C. Davies, J. Pendergast (both try), S. Thomas, R. Jenkins (both try), G. Leader (Swansea), J. Humphreys (Cardiff), G. J. Davies (Newport), G. Mowling (Cardiff), D. Jones (Cardiff), A. G. Jones (Newport), N. Taylor (Cardiff), S. Williams (Swansea).

AUSTRALIA: M. Burke, D. Campese, J. Roff, T. Horan, A. Murdoch, P. Horner, G. Eales, E. McKenzie, M. Caputo, M. Harry, O. Finnegan, J. Eales, O. Finnegan, D. Wilson, O. Mann.

Scotland are expected to give several players the chance to make amends for their performances in the defeat by Northland on Friday. The props Peter Wright (knee ligament) and Tom Smith (elbow) will not be considered for Wednesday's match against Waikato, but the Scots want to put out as strong a team as possible.

Sport in brief

Motor Sport

Britain's world champion Colin McEneaney holds a healthy lead after the first day of the fourth round of the world championship. Despite twisting his Subaru's rear suspension against a lump of concrete on the seventh stage, the Scot increased his advantage over his leading rival, Finland's Tommi Makinen, to 54 seconds.

Cycling

Chris Boardman beat a strong field in the time-trial prologue of the Dauphiné Libéré, the traditional warm-up to the Tour de France. The Briton clocked 7min 55sec in the 5.7km (3.4-mile) event in the French Alpine resort of Megève. France's Laurent Brochard was second, 11 seconds behind Boardman, Switzerland's Tony Rominger third and Miguel Indurain of Spain fourth.

The Italian champion Gianni Bugno won the 15th stage of the Giro d'Italia yesterday. He held off his compatriot Francesco Casagrande at the end of the 224km 15th stage from Briançon in France.

Chess

Garry Kasparov, the world No.1, was relegated to third yesterday when Vladimir Kramnik and Veselin Topalov tied for first prize at Seville in

the strongest-ever tournament, writes Leonard Barden. The 21-year-olds from Russia and Bulgaria have both out-pointed or defeated Kasparov in recent competitions.

Athletics

Clova Court will concentrate on the 100 metres hurdles rather than the heptathlon at the British Olympic trials this month. She does not want to risk aggravating ligament trouble.

Rugby Union

Ireland booked their place in next year's World Cup Sevens finals in Hong Kong, despite conceding two tries to Sweden at the Lisbon qualifying tournament yesterday. Ireland won 33-10 with two tries each from David Humphreys and Darragh O'Mahoney and one from Paddy Johns. Earlier Humphreys helped himself to a hat-trick of tries in the 47-0 win over Croatia.

Exclusive: Lion in England strip drinks pint of lager. http://www.cansberg.co.uk

Large vertical advertisement on the right edge of the page. Visible text includes: 'Coy Ch...', 'keeps t...', 'World a...', 'a distan...', 'Montgome...', 'Victory whi...', 'F...', 'ss needs', 'To advertise The Guardian be call 0171...'.

ATHLETICS: EUROPEAN CUP

Coy Christie keeps the world at a distance

Duncan Mackay sees the British captain in peerless form in Madrid

THE "will he or won't he?" games continue but the biggest tease in athletics must surely have made up his mind about going to Atlanta, after a weekend when he continued to rewrite the record books but heard his claim to be the world's fastest man dismissed by a young pretender to his Olympic crown.



Christie... dominant

After waking up to the news that Trinidad's Ato Boldon had clocked a sensational 9.92sec for 100 metres in America, the fastest time of the year, Lindford Christie went out here to claim a record 15th European Cup title, winning the 200m in 20.35sec.

And surely he will not be able to resist the challenge thrown down to him by Boldon, who said: "Only myself, Donovan Bailey or Carl Lewis can win the Olympics."

They are words that will be like a red rag to a bull. Christie, after a winter in Florida, has muscles as sculptured as one of Hemingway's matadors and is not looking like a man ready to embrace retirement.

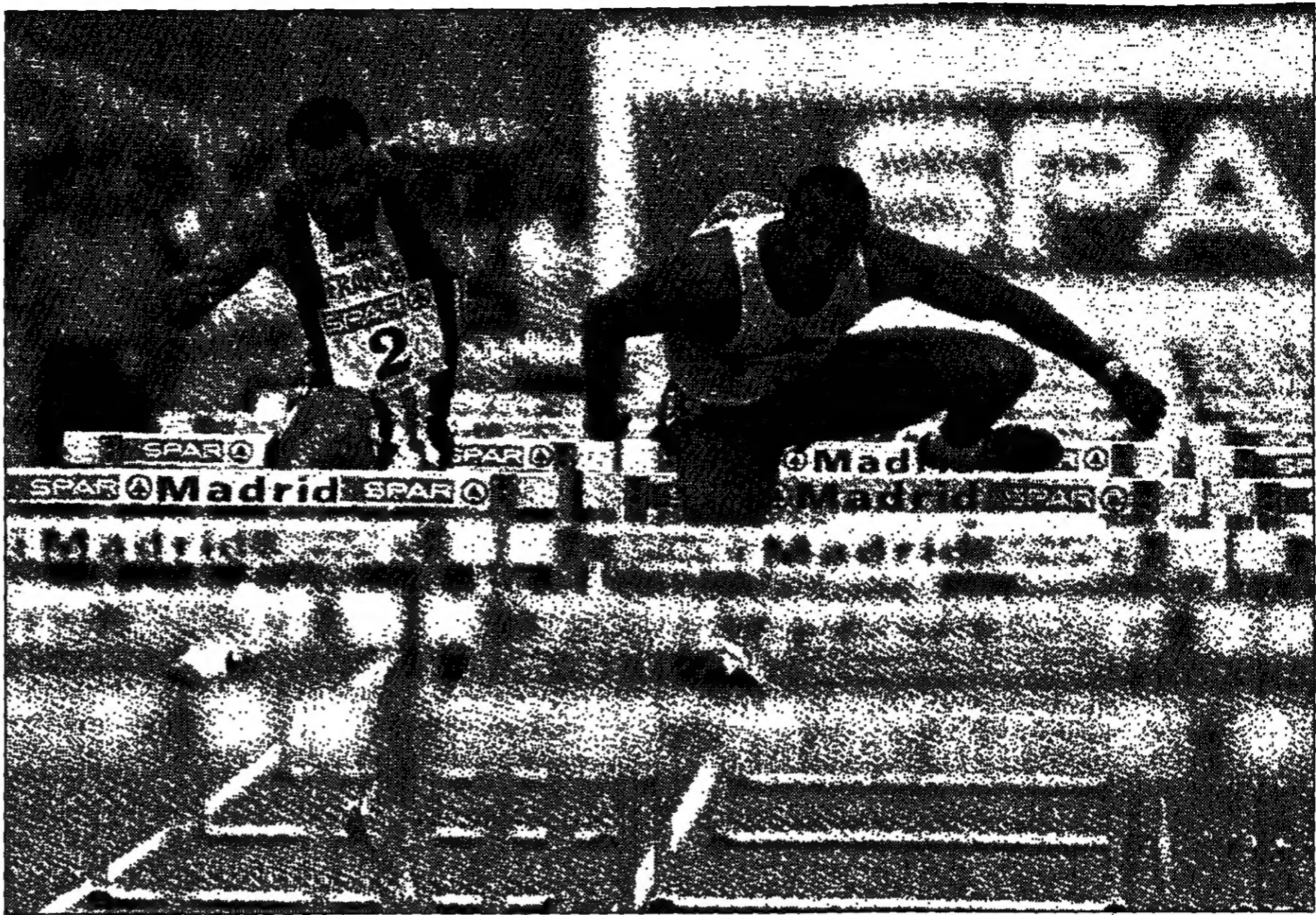
The 200m victory was added to his 10.04sec 100m triumph on Saturday, when he had broken his own cup record by one-hundredth of a second to continue his proud record of not having lost to a European sprinter in a major championship for 10 years.

This Friday, Christie takes a step up in class when he competes in Nuremberg, where he will meet Bailey for the first time since the Canadian accused the Briton of faking injury in last year's world championship, which Bailey won. It would be interesting to be a fly on the wall for their conversation.

But, as ever, whereas Christie covered himself in glory on the track his behaviour off it let him down. First, he was Captain invisible when he snubbed his colleagues by arriving too late on Friday to attend the team meeting, then he refused to display the logo of Britain's official team sponsor on his team vest.

"It does concern us that sponsors don't get the coverage they deserve," said Tony Ward, spokesman for the British Athletic Federation. Jonathan Edwards was the only other British winner of an individual event yesterday, although Mark Richardson, Jamie Heuchel, Mark Hoyton and Du'aine Ladejo combined to win the 4x400m relay.

Edwards' winning leap of 17.79 metres was achieved at almost the same time Christie was racing to victory in the 200m. It helped kick-start late British surge, in which they recovered to reclaim second place behind Germany, it was the fifth consecutive occasion Britain had



Fenced in... Colin Jackson, one of Britain's main hopes for Atlanta, was beaten into second place by Germany's Florian Schwarzhoff in the 110 metres hurdles

filled that position. The British women were sixth, Germany again winning.

It was in this event in Lille 12 months ago that Edwards started pushing back the boundaries of triple jumping when he leapt a monster wind-aided 18.43m, and launched a summer which included two world records and a world title. He will surely be the first name on the selectors' list for Atlanta, but his stuttering start to the season continued.

He managed to win easily, with his wind-assisted second-round effort half a metre further than the runner-up Vladimir Kravchenko. Yet after his peerless 1995

his performance here, where he fouled the other three jumps he attempted, combined with his tentative show in Atlanta two weeks ago, did not dispel the sense that Edwards is vulnerable and uncertain whether he can ever recapture his record-breaking form of last year. "I'm not ecstatically happy," he admitted. "I need to get into some sort of rhythm."

Colin Jackson's Olympic season has also struggled to get into gear. He suffered his second successive defeat by a European when Florian Schwarzhoff of Germany won the 110m hurdles in 13.20sec. For five hurdles Jackson was immaculate but then his

rhythm disappeared and he ended up staggering over the line like a drunk after clattering the last two hurdles, 0.64sec behind Schwarzhoff. Unlike Edwards, Jackson remains unconcerned. "My Olympic final isn't until July 20, and that's what matters," he said. "I'm not in a mad panic."

Christie was not the only senior citizen boosting Olympic chances. At 38 the shot putter Jake Oakes threw as well as ever on a record ninth European Cup appearance and produced Britain's best women's performance of the day when she finished second to the world champion Astrid Kumbernuss with 19.00m.

Boldon closes in on record

ATTO BOLDON ran the fastest 100 metres in the world this year at the US Collegiate Championships in Oregon on Saturday. He finished two metres ahead of the field in 9.92sec.

"My goal is to break the world record (9.85) and keep getting closer," said the 23-year-old from Trinidad, who produced a burst of speed at halfway to knock 0.01sec off his previous best achieved earlier this season.

In the 400m the world bronze medalist Greg Haughton, of Jamaica, was overtaken 40 metres from the line by Davian Clarke, who finished 0.15sec ahead of him in 45.29sec.

In the women's event D'Andre Hill took the 100m in 11.03sec, the third-fastest this year, and was second in the 200m behind her Louisiana State University team-mate Zandra Feagin, who ran 22.44sec. Kim Carson won the 100m hurdles in a wind-assisted time

of 12.82sec. Dawn Eilert of the University of South Carolina set a US record of 63.76m in the hammer.

Meanwhile at the Bruce Jenner Classic in San Jose Leroy Burzell qualified for the Olympic trials with 10.18sec in the 100m. Afterwards he predicted an American would take 100m gold in Atlanta. "There's a slim chance that somebody who's not an American will win," he said. "But we're ready. We're going to have the strongest team ever."

Golf

Montgomery again sees victory whisked away

Michael Britton in Hamburg

FOR the third time in 10 weeks Colin Montgomerie has had an important title whisked from his grasp in the final stages of an inspired opponent.

In March it was Fred Couples with an eagle at the 18th in a last-round 64 to deprive him of the Players Championship at Sawgrass. Two weeks ago it was Stephen Ames after a 66 to force Montgomerie to force his four-iron less shot and pushed it wide of the green on a grassy bank, where he found a poor lie.

Yesterday Frank Nobilo deprived the European No. 1 of the Deutsche Bank Open at the Gut Kaden Club. The New Zealander, who covered the first nine holes in 30, added a birdie hat-trick from the 15th for a best-of-the-week 64 to equal the tournament record of 270. Montgomerie had a 66, but despite a birdie at the 18th was beaten by one shot.

Nobilo was one behind the Scot at the outset but he birdied the 1st and followed an eagle from 30 feet at the 3rd with three more birdies.

It took an equally emphatic broadside of attacking iron shots and accurate putting for Montgomerie to stay in touch with an outward 32 that contained four birdies. A fifth at the 10th put him into the lead when Nobilo drove into a bunker at the 12th, but at the short 16th Montgomerie tried to force his four-iron less shot and pushed it wide of the green on a grassy bank, where he found a poor lie.

Almost simultaneously Nobilo followed a birdie four at the 15th with a 68 put for a two at the 16th to effect a two-stroke swing. When Nobilo also beat par at the 17th, despite hitting two woods into a greenside bunker, Montgomerie had to birdie the last two holes to force a tie.

In Dubai in March he had struck a 230-yard driver shot over the lake at the 18th to hit the Desert Classic. This time his attempt with the same club to hit the green at the 584-yard 17th was well off target as the ball ballooned into the semi-rough, and he could manage only par. With Nobilo watching in the thrall gallery, Montgomerie's brave attempt to sink an eight-iron from 172 yards at the last for an eagle two ended eight feet short. It was the fifth European victory for the 36-year-old, who won £120,000.

"There always seems to be someone around to do these things to me," said Montgomerie. "It's unfortunate to shoot 66 and not win, but I am happy with my game coming up to the US Open."

Seve Ballesteros, who entertained hopes of a 53th European victory after a third-round 66, drove out of bounds to take seven at the 3rd after being disturbed by an amateur photographer. He was joint 12th.

"I would be shooting myself in the foot if I did that. You cannot be aggressive on this course. I will only use my driver at the two par fives," said Davies, who would hoist her winnings in 1986 beyond the million-dollar mark if she were to win.

Davies, who is aiming for her fourth grand-slam title, admitted she needed to match Faldo's patience and hope for a Sorenstam turnaround of Norman-esque proportions. She said: "Nick proved just what can happen in a major championship. He had a lot of help from Norman and I will need some from Annika. But I am not counting myself out of this one."

Faldo had a best-of-the-day 67 to outstrip Norman at Augusta, and Davies has lowered

Results

Soccer

UEFA U-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

San Marino 0-0 Wales (W) 3; Scotland 0-0 Hungary (D) 3; Portugal 0-0 Czech Rep. (D) 3; Spain 0-0 France (D) 3; Germany 0-0 Italy (D) 3; Netherlands 0-0 Belgium (D) 3; Denmark 0-0 Sweden (D) 3; Norway 0-0 Austria (D) 3; Greece 0-0 Turkey (D) 3; Slovenia 0-0 Croatia (D) 3; Serbia 0-0 Montenegro (D) 3; Bosnia 0-0 Herzegovina (D) 3; Macedonia 0-0 Bulgaria (D) 3; Romania 0-0 Moldova (D) 3; Ukraine 0-0 Belarus (D) 3; Lithuania 0-0 Latvia (D) 3; Estonia 0-0 Georgia (D) 3; Armenia 0-0 Azerbaijan (D) 3; Kazakhstan 0-0 Kyrgyzstan (D) 3; Uzbekistan 0-0 Turkmenistan (D) 3; Tajikistan 0-0 Kyrgyzstan (D) 3; Vietnam 0-0 Laos (D) 3; Cambodia 0-0 Thailand (D) 3; Myanmar 0-0 Laos (D) 3; Philippines 0-0 Thailand (D) 3; Singapore 0-0 Malaysia (D) 3; Brunei 0-0 Indonesia (D) 3; East Timor 0-0 Indonesia (D) 3; Papua New Guinea 0-0 New Zealand (D) 3; Solomon Islands 0-0 New Zealand (D) 3; Vanuatu 0-0 New Zealand (D) 3; Fiji 0-0 New Zealand (D) 3; Samoa 0-0 New Zealand (D) 3; Tonga 0-0 New Zealand (D) 3; Cook Islands 0-0 New Zealand (D) 3; Niue 0-0 New Zealand (D) 3; Tokelau 0-0 New Zealand (D) 3; 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Sports Guardian

SPANISH GRAND PRIX



Rainproof... Michael Schumacher surfs towards his first victory since joining Ferrari and the team's first since Jean Alesi won in Canada 12 months ago. Alesi was second in a Benetton and only six cars finished. PHOTOGRAPH: BEN RADFOUR

Schumacher is master of the rain in Spain

Alan Henry in Barcelona

MICHAEL Schumacher produced one of the greatest wet-weather drives in history to secure an overwhelming victory in the Spanish Grand Prix yesterday — his first win for Ferrari.

His triumph opened up the world championship after the points leader Damon Hill spun off the near-flooded Circuit de Catalunya and crashed his Williams-Renault into the pit wall. "I am just relieved to be in one piece," said Hill. "I am pleased to be out of the race."

Schumacher won by more than 45 seconds from Jean Alesi's Benetton to move into joint second in the championship, on 26 points with Hill's team-mate Jacques Villeneuve, who finished a strong third in only his third race in rain. Only six of the 20 starters finished.

At the finish the world champion was mobbed by his mechanics, who were celebrating Ferrari's second win in 31 races and their first since Alesi won in Canada 12 months ago. Heinz-Harald Frentzen, who escaped unhurt from a crash in the warm-up which shattered the rear of his Sauber, was fourth in the spare car. McLaren's Mika Hakkinen and Ligier's Pedro Diniz finished fifth and sixth.

Such was Schumacher's mastery that his victory became probable once he had surfed through into the lead on lap 12, having overcome a slight problem with his clutch at the start. However, he also had to contend with a mechanical problem from half-distance

when his V10 engine lapsed on to nine cylinders and ran slightly erratically through to the end of the race. The handicap might have affected the outcome had conditions been dry, but in such heavy rain the world champion's skill was the deciding factor. "At half-distance, around lap 23, I just had about eight or nine cylinders working, which wasn't too pleasant because I worried

that it would be difficult to finish, but the car stayed together," he said. Hill made a poor start from pole position, suffered two spins and was running a lowly eighth when his race ended on the 11th lap. "I made three mistakes and had the wrong set-up on the car," he admitted. "It was really down to me what happened today."

He said of the rain-swept track: "The big problem is visibility. At the end of the first lap I went down the straight and there were cars on the right and people working on one on the left and I didn't see them until I was on top of them. You just cannot see the road ahead at all." Villeneuve had got away to lead into the first corner from Alesi's Benetton, with Hill disappearing into an opaque wall of water as he dropped to third. Further back, the inevitable chaos saw David Coulthard's McLaren collide with Ricardo Rosset's Footwork, prompting Pedro Lamy in the Minardi to brake hard only to be collected by his team-mate Giancarlo Fisichella.

Gazza pleads innocent



Venables... detective

Martin Thorpe on the trail of guilty England players

IN WHAT could have been a scene from an Agatha Christie thriller, the suspects in the Great Cathay Pacific Mystery found themselves gathered at a charming country hotel last night being grilled in a whodunnit. As in all detective stories, the early evidence had pointed towards an obvious suspect, in this case Paul Gascoigne. Today the script is likely to take a twist worthy of Hercule Poirot. Gascoigne's accusers may have got the wrong man.

The part of the hard-bitten detective was being played by Terry Venables, the England coach, who had been proceeding in a westerly direction on the flight back from China, when 55,000 damage was perpetrated on two video screens and a table. Venables had been oblivious of any trouble, but the finger of suspicion was immediately pointed at Gascoigne, guilty by reputation. Yesterday, however, the FA spokesman Steve Double revealed before last night's interrogation: "People have jumped to dangerous conclusions over exactly who was to blame."

Youth gets its day to cure England

Mike Selvey

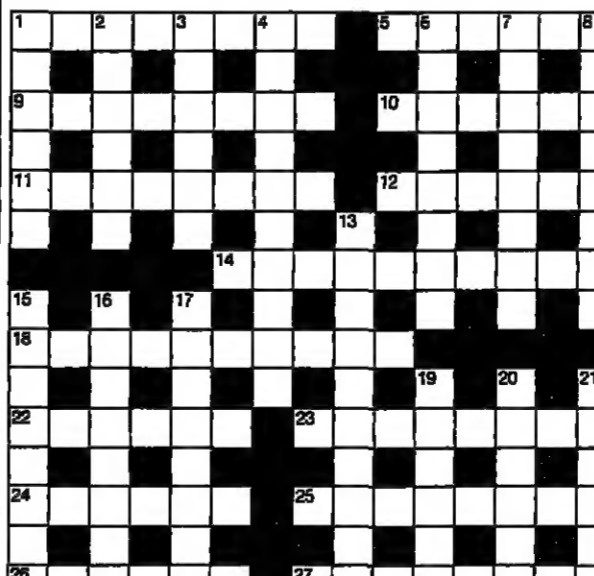
THE selectors have begun the process of resuscitating English Test cricket which, after showing reasonably rude health for much of the southern hemisphere summer, suffered an unforeseen and severe setback during a potty hour on a sunny Cape Town afternoon. Major surgery was prescribed and yesterday five players from that disastrous final Test — Alec Stewart, Robin Smith, Angus Fraser and Devon Malcolm of the senior men, in addition to Mike Watkinson — learned they had been discarded when Raymond Illingworth announced the first Test squad of this summer. Youth, exuberance, agility and temperament were key words that came up during a brief 40-minute meeting in Manchester on Saturday evening.

Back into the batting lineup come Nick Knight and John Crawley, who had lost their places after injury, together with Nasser Hussain, the last of whose seven Tests was three years ago. The seam bowling will be lent variety by the left-arm pace of Alan Mullally and the return of Chris Lewis, and, if a spinner should play on Thursday, it would mean a first cap not only for Kent's left-armed Min Patel but also

for the Essex all-rounder Ronnie Irani, who would take the place of a front-line batsman in the interest of balance. The Birmingham pitch is said to have an even covering of grass, a good deal of which will probably be left there, given the nature of India's attack and the way their batsmen treat opposing spinners. "We are waiting to have another look at the pitch on Tuesday and Wednesday before making a final decision," said Illingworth. "If we decide to play Patel as our spinner, then Irani will also come in at No. 6." Should the need arise, Patel, born in Bombay, would not lack for temperament. He has a languid, rhythmic action — a bit "army" at times but he is working on it — knows one end of the bat from the other and is a brave short-leg fielder. The selectors had, said Illingworth, started from scratch and decided to lean more towards youth; Crawley and Irani are 24, Patel 25 and Mullally 35. Only Hick, just turned 30, and Russell, 32, are older than the captain Mike Atherton, who is 28. The main debate centred on the batting, which Illingworth admitted yet again had not functioned as a unit during our winter. Knight's return was widely forecast and he has scored heavily for Warwickshire this season. As a left-hander he will provide a counterpoint to Atherton.

Guardian Crossword No 20,669

Set by Crispa



- Across**
- Force providing many a seaman with work (8)
 - Result broadcast in Northern Ireland (6)
 - Turn informer — and to turn informer could mean prison (8)
 - Tries to catch crooks (6)
 - Selected — about time — so practised (8)
 - As the heartless fool said about flowers (6)
 - Chain-store designed specially for people on their own (10)
 - The beauty appears to accept wrinkles (10)
 - Publicity's hold over one good-looker (6)
 - Finding school filling in time, blow up (8)
 - Plan a camping holiday? (6)
- Down**
- What tradesmen need is practice (6)
 - Hold out for a caretaker (6)
 - The rogue responsible for Clara's breakdown (6)
 - Reading about medical reverse and being censorious (10)
 - Giving pounds and pounds or a large figure for a letter (8)
 - Allow the French following to dress down (8)
 - Uneasy, having no support (8)
 - He wrote the novel "The Comets" (10)

PARTRICKHORI-E
T I S E O A I A O V
I A A A A O O O O O
G O F P O O O O O
R O U T E A U T H E N T I C
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WINNERS OF PRIZE PUZZLE 20,662
This week's winners of a Collins English Dictionary are Dr. C. R. Fletcher of Aberystwyth, Wales, R. Thomas of Ventnor, Isle-of-Wight, Hampshire, Mr. I. Frabrizi of London N21, Mr. C. Thorpe of West Kirby, Lancashire, and J. Bury of Plympton, Devon.

15 Saving a little in middle-age (8)
16 Sense hesitation in a foreign dealer (8)
17 A combination that makes a nice change after all (8)
19 Top-up time for the first course (6)
20 Debate about price-fixing (6)
21 Note and coin newly issued (6)

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